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14 DEAD, 1307 HURT . . .

Weak . . . the grandstand supports, resting on loose blocks (left).

Carnage . . . the aftermath of the disaster as fans try to help the trapped and injured (below).

NOW SWEDEN MUST HEED THE WARNING OF CORSICA

Big crowds and small stadia just don't mix

BY **KEIR RADNEDGE**, *WORLD SOCCER* EDITOR

THE EVE of a European Championship is hardly the time to worry about the selection of the host nation. That decision was taken years ago, and nothing will change it. Euro '92 goes to Sweden and, for better or worse, we wish it every success.

But one of the many obvious lessons of the Furiani disaster in Corsica is that, simply, you cannot safely put big matches in small stadia.

Bastia against Marseille in a French Cup semi-final was the island's biggest match in a decade. The old Furiani stadium had a potential maximum capacity of 8,500.

In a hurry local officials decided to build a temporary grandstand. What happened next has been graphically described by witnesses.

The death count stands at 14. No fewer than 1,307 were hurt. A week after the disaster, some 500 were still in hospital.

Weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth was the response from officials in the French political and football governments.

Three inquiries have been launched, one a criminal inquiry in which one arrest was made immediately and more are promised.

The problem is, whatever rules and regulations may be passed, the human element always provides a weak link. Spanish officials proved it, turning Seville into an all-seat stadium by the simple expedient of telling the fans on the terraces to sit down.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson said he could not sleep on the night of the Bastia disaster. I hope he sleeps soundly during the finals of the European Championship, whose success is doubly important for him as the top man in both European and Swedish football. But we do worry.

Look at the stadia capacities as listed in *WORLD SOCCER'S* Euro '92 guide. The largest stadium, the Ullevi in Gothenburg, holds a mere 35,000 — little more than the minimum size for a ground at the World Cup finals. And these are stadia which will welcome not the fans of poor countries from halfway round the globe, but affluent fans who live, comparatively, next door.

The vast majority of tickets have been sold. But when one stadium holds only 17,000, like Norrkoping, that is little enough to boast about.

At the draw in January, I asked Swedish Federation spokesmen if they had realised how small their stadia were compared with the likely spectator demand from Germany, Holland, England, etc. I was told that the security authorities "will have to pay attention to the matter."

Accustomed

Fans from western Europe are accustomed to turning up for big matches, ignoring the "sell-out" notices and scrabbling in the shadows for tickets. Why should Euro '92 be any different? The mixture of high-octane support from three nations with notorious minorities is not a recipe for peace.

An enormous responsibility rests on the security forces. So far, not even the Swedes are confident they have their act together. The high-profile publicity earned from police exercises staged for the media jarred unhappily with the latest fence-ripping escapades of Sweden's own hooligans.

We wish all the European finalists well. We wish the hosts well. Above all, we wish that Lennart Johansson may sleep easily in his bed.

But all the wishing in the world, or, at the least, Europe, will not stop us from worrying.

THE MATCH

THE semi-final against champions Marseille was to be Bastia's biggest game in 10 years. The local club's last taste of anything near success had been a place in cup semis in 1982.

At that time Bastia were a First Division club but little had been heard of them on a national level since their relegation at the end of 1985-86.

The 250,000 population of Corsica always have seen Bastia's struggles as some sort of representation of the island's bid to maintain a separate identity from mainland France.

Corsica, birthplace of Napoleon, became part of France only in 1759, has its own language and has railed for years against economic and political domination by Paris.

The little, tattered Furiani stadium had proved, time and again, to be an intimidating venue. Indeed, the "legend" of Furiani was partly credited with Bastia's 1978 success in reaching the UEFA Cup final.

Consequently, ticket demand for the cup-tie against Marseille vastly oversubscribed supply. Hence the decision to put up a temporary 9,800-capacity stand, of a type common on the continent and which — literally overnight — doubled the stadium's capacity.

Such stands are widely used at sporting events in France and elsewhere on the continent. They were used for the 1992 Winter Olympics at Albertville, and will be used for spectators at the summer games in Barcelona.

THE ACCIDENT

LONG before the scheduled start it was clear that the stand was hardly safe. One fan told a radio interviewer he saw workmen trying to tighten bolts on the scaffolding beneath the thousands of stamping, chanting fans.

"They saw it was moving and they did not tell us anything," he told *Radio French Info*. "I saw four or five technicians perched on the structure trying like crazy to tighten things up. They couldn't manage it."

A quarter of an hour before kick-off the ground was full and the atmosphere electric. The temporary grandstand was packed with excited impatient fans who began stamping in impatience. A loud-speaker appeal for them to stop was broadcast, but the noise drowned out the words.

The match was to be shown live on French television and coverage had begun when the pitch microphones picked up a metallic clatter — the prelude to disaster as the top rows of the supporting scaffolding buckled, plunging fans at the top of the grandstand more than 60 feet into the tangle of people, seats and poles beneath.

TV reporter Dominque Verdeilhon, who was in the stand when it fell, said steps began to crumble as the fans stamped.

Significantly, Verdeilhon added that the stand had not appeared to be anchored in the ground and was standing only on thin planks.

One fan, Laurent-Anthoine Casanova, said: "When we arrived there were still workmen tightening bolts. We told them: Tighten them well, or we'll fall out. They built it any-old-how. They didn't even put the support pillars in concrete."

Players who had been warming up on the pitch rushed to open security fences, allowing trapped spectators to escape and preventing the additional danger of a crowd crush.

Rescue workers pulled the wounded from the mangled wreckage of metal tubes. The most critically injured were evacuated by ambulances or laid on stretchers on the pitch.

Army medical staff and aircraft were summoned from mainland France. The Tour of Corsica motor rally was abandoned to allow race doctors to help rescue operations and radio stations urged residents to give blood.

As the Corsican hospitals filled up, so hundreds of the injured were flown to Marseille or Nice. The pitch was not cleared until the early hours of the following morning.

Meanwhile, worried relatives crowded outside Bastia's main hospital.

The following morning, churches in Ajaccio and Bastia held memorial masses.

In Britain, survivors of the 1989 Hillsborough tragedy, where 95 people died, offered to raise funds to help relatives of victims, and Liverpool offered to play a match against a French club in aid of a special fund.

THE AFTERMATH

THREE separate inquiries were launched on the following day.

Interior Minister Paul Quiles announced a formal three-man commission of inquiry; Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy set up a further inquiry by leading officials from the Interior, Equipment and Sports ministries; and the public prosecutors' office in Bastia opened an investigation based on charges of manslaughter.

FIFA and UEFA declined to make their own formal inquiries, while the French Federation got into a frightful mess over the French Cup. Bastia withdrew, leaving Marseille to face Monaco in the final for the third time in four seasons. But players refused to countenance a match, even with gate receipts going to a fund for the victims' families. The France v Holland friendly, set for June 5, was selected for the fund.

Accordingly the federation cancelled the final and delayed a decision on what to do about declaring a winner, and whether to propose Monaco for next season's Cup-winners' Cup.

An emergency fund, starting at £5 million, was set up.

Three days after the disaster, Jean-Marie Boimond, a 39-year-old construction company official who had been assigned to oversee the building of the grandstand, was charged with manslaughter and inflicting criminal injury.

THE REACTION

IN PARIS, the French parliament observed a minute's silence; Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy consulted senior ministers on rescue efforts; government spokesman Martin Malvy announced an official investigation to begin immediately; President Francois Mitterrand, visiting Spain to attend the World Fair in Seville, sent a message of condolence.

SEPP BLATTER (FIFA general secretary): We will soon ban temporary tubular stands. This confirms again that big matches can be staged only in well-equipped stadia with solid foundations. We have worked hard since the Heysel disaster to improve safety at matches. Perhaps we have to be even more specific, even directly overseeing the work of national associations.

JEAN FOURNET-FAYARD (French Federation president): These facilities had been approved by the security authorities. We had taken the utmost precautions. We obtained all necessary certificates and guarantees from both the manufacturer and the Corsican security commission. We wouldn't have allowed people on the stand otherwise.

RENATO ORLANDO (spokesman for the Swiss Federation, who had proposed to use temporary stands in a bid to host the 1998 World Cup): We must revise our candidacy. The principle of using such temporary constructions must be reconsidered.

JEAN-FRANCOIS PHILIPP (Bastia president): We have been talking about nothing but security for a week. It is likely we will take legal action against the company which built the grandstand.

BERNARD TAPIE (Minister for Urban Affairs, and Marseille president): These things must never be allowed to happen again, because this was an avoidable incident. France was proud of organising hundreds of matches per week without serious incident, but we've been quite close to them sometimes. The real question is whether one can transform one stadium into another inside a week. Before the match the atmosphere had been overheated by the sensationalist press and by noisy loudspeakers. Anyone who was to blame for this must be severely punished.

EMILE ZUCCARELLI (Mayor of Bastia): Corsica is in mourning. It's a national catastrophe. Our young people came to celebrate and found a nightmare.

ALAIN GIORDANENGO (president of Entreprise General du Midi, the grandstand's constructors): The accident is baffling. These stands are built like mesh. Even if some of the cross-bars don't hold, they should be supported by the others. It's incomprehensible.

JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN (Marseille forward): The Cup stopped when the stand collapsed. It should not continue this season, out of respect to the dead and the injured. I'll never forget it.

JEAN-LUC ETTORI (Monaco goalkeeper): It would be disgraceful to play the final after what happened in Bastia.

LENNARD JOHANSSON (UEFA president): I didn't sleep that night because of the disaster. But we will not be carrying out an inquiry. UEFA did not organise the competition. It's for the French to investigate.

THE HISTORY

1946 ..... Burnden Park, Bolton: 33 die and 500 are injured when a wall collapses during a cup-tie between Bolton and Stoke.

1964 ..... Lima, Peru: 318 people are killed and another 500 injured in riots after a last-minute goal by Peru against Argentina is disallowed in an Olympic qualifier.

1967 ..... Turkey: A disallowed goal in a Turkish game provokes a riot in which 41 die and 600 are hurt.

1968 ..... Buenos Aires: 74 die after a match between River Plate and Boca Juniors when fans, trying to escape burning newspaper being thrown down from an upper tier, rush towards a gate pushed shut by fans on the other side, unaware of them.

1971 ..... Cairo: Crowds attempting to enter a match at Zamalek Stadium break down barriers and a wall, leading to the deaths of 48 people and 50 injuries.

1971 ..... Ibrox, Glasgow: 66 people die and 170 are injured on a staircase when fans leaving the stadium try to turn back after a late goal.

1981 ..... Ibague, Colombia: 18 die and 45 are injured when a wall collapses during a match between Deportes Tolima and Deportivo Cali.

1982 ..... Moscow: 61 are reportedly killed at a UEFA Cup-tie between Moscow Spartak and Haarlem of Holland. Police are blamed for pushing fans down a narrow, icy staircase before the end of the match. When a late goal is scored, fans try to re-enter the stadium. Early reports had estimated the toll at 340.

1982 ..... Cali, Colombia: drunken youths urinate from an upper deck of the Pascual Guerrero Stadium and provoke a stampede which leaves 22 dead and more than 100 injured.

1985 ..... Bradford: 56 people die when a cigarette stub ignites rubbish beneath a wooden stand and sets the structure alight.

1985 ..... Heysel, Brussels: 39 die at the Champions' Cup Final between Juventus and Liverpool when a charge by English hooligans leads to the collapse of a wall under the pressure of Italian supporters trying to escape.

1987 ..... Tripoli, Libya: 20 die when panic-stricken fans flee knife-wielding attackers and cause a wall's collapse. The initial official Libyan report listed two dead and 16 treated in hospital.

1988 ..... Katmandu, Nepal: 93 die and more than 100 are injured when fans fleeing a hailstorm, are crushed against locked stadium exits.

1989 ..... Hillsborough, Sheffield: 95 people are crushed to death at an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, when police open gates to alleviate crowding outside the ground.

1989 ..... Lagos, Nigeria: 12 fans are trampled to death and a player (Nigerian winger Sam Okwaraji) dies on the field during a World Cup qualifier between Nigeria and Angola.

1991 ..... Orkney, South Africa: 40 are killed, being trampled or crushed against riot-control fences, when fans panic and try to escape fighting at a derby match between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates.

1992 ..... Corsica: 13 are killed and 1,307 are hurt when a temporary grandstand, erected to increase the Furiani stadium capacity from 8,500 to 18,000, collapses before a French Cup semi-final between Marseille and Bastia.

WHAT'S ON?

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Internationals: Holland v Wales (Amsterdam), Germany v Turkey.
US Cup '92: United States v Republic of Ireland (Washington DC).

SUNDAY, MAY 31
World Cup qualifier, CONCACAF Prelim Round (Caribbean, South): Trinidad & Tobago v Barbados.
US Cup '92: Italy v Portugal (New Haven).

TUESDAY, JUNE 2
International: Germany v Northern Ireland.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 3: Albania v Lithuania. **Group 4:** Faroe Islands v Belgium. **Group 5:** Hungary v Iceland.
US Cup '92: United States v Portugal (Chicago).
Internationals: Finland v England (Helsinki), Norway v Scotland (Ullevaal), FC Brage (Norway) v Yugoslavia, Denmark v CIS, Estonia v Slovenia (Tallinn).

THURSDAY, JUNE 4
US Cup '92: Republic of Ireland v Italy (Foxboro).

FRIDAY, JUNE 5
International: France v Holland (Lens).

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
US Cup '92: United States v Italy (Chicago).

SUNDAY, JUNE 7
World Cup qualifier, Oceania Group 2: New Zealand v Fiji.
US Cup '92: Portugal v Republic of Ireland (Foxboro).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 4: Faroe Islands v Cyprus.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27
World Cup qualifier, Oceania Group 2: Vanuatu v New Zealand.

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JUNE 1992
Vol.32 No.9

July issue on sale 3rd July

Footballer of the Year Gary Lineker

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Distributed by IPC Marketforce

WORLD SOCCER is published by IPC Magazines Ltd.,HolbornPublishing Group, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower,StamfordStreet, London SE1 9LS. World Soccer must not be sold atmore than the recommended selling price shown on the frontcover. Sole Agents for Australia and New Zealand:Gordon &Gotch Ltd. South Africa:Central News Agency. Subscriptionfacilities (Inland and Overseas) available through QuadrantSubscription Services, Oakfield House, 35 Perrymount Road,Haywards Heath, W.Sussex, RH16 3DH. For North America inquiries:Subscription Department, Reed Business Publishing, 205 East42nd Street, Suite 1705, New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel: (212)867 2080. Fax (212) 983 0745. All rights reserved andreproduction without permission strictly forbidden. Printedin England by TPL Printers (UK) Ltd.,Haartlebury, nr.Kidderminster. Origination by Meridan Media Services Ltd.,Peterborough. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.1SSN.0043-9037. 2nd Class postage paid at Newark, NJ,U.S.Postmaster send address changes to WORLD SOCCER c/o VirginMailing and Distribution, Cargo Building, 150 NewarkInternational Airport, New Jersey, NJ 07114.

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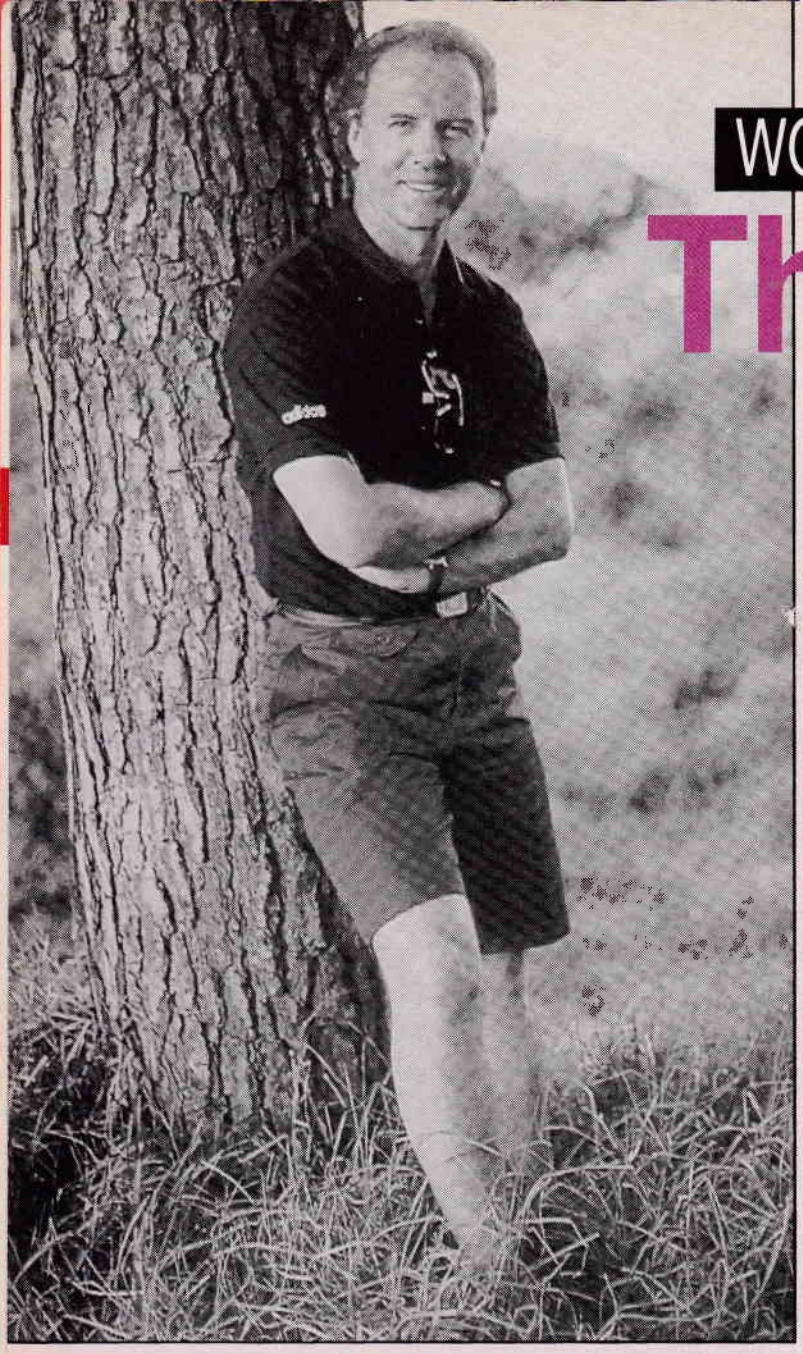
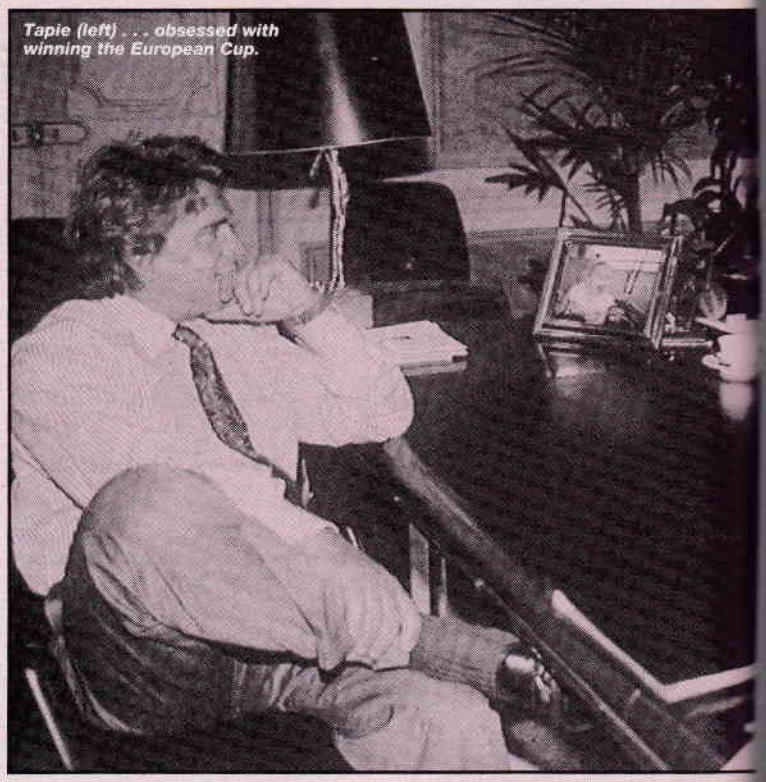
WORLD SOCCER TALKS EXCLU

The life and of a footb

INTERVIEWED BY ROB **MOORE**





Tapie (left) . . . obsessed with winning the European Cup.

WS: When you won the World Cup as manager of the West German national team, you said that you had achieved all you could as a sportsman. Yet you chose to later manage Marseille. Why?

FB: The season had already started when Bernard Tapie approached me for the Marseille job. He basically told me that I had to immediately give an answer, and I agreed. Tapie is a very charming and persuasive guy.

At the time I had never had the opportunity of managing a team on a day-to-day basis. As the coach of the German national team I had the players maybe three or four days per month, and I wanted to see what it was like having access to a team every day. Also, Marseille are one of Europe's top clubs and that had a bearing on my decision.

WS: Was it what you wanted, or expected?

FB: No. After three or four months I found out that it wasn't what I wanted but at least I had the chance of finding out what it was like, coaching and managing a club team.

WS: Do you feel that you made any errors of judgement in your spell at Marseille?

FB: Not really. Being a German I found that there was quite a different mentality in the south of France, particularly Marseille. It took quite a while to come to terms with the different character and lifestyle.

WS: Would you go through the experience again?

FB: I would go back to Marseille tomorrow but only under the following conditions:

(1) The season must not be in progress (like it was when I joined them — the team was badly prepared when I first came).

(2) If I could speak the language fluently. As far as the team was concerned it was fine but off the field there were things happening which you wouldn't be aware of if you didn't understand the language.

WS: Did Tapie interfere a lot with team affairs?

FB: Yes, that's one thing I had to come to terms with. In Germany everybody has their job and is responsible for that job but in France there is the Patron — the President — who wants to have a hand in everything.

WS: Did you and Tapie part on good terms?

FB: Yes.

WS: Why is Tapie obsessed with winning the European Champions' Cup?

FB: It means everything to him. But he is too desperate. He wants to have the first French team ever to win the European Cup but if you want something too much, you don't always end up getting it.

His philosophy is: 'I spend a lot of money, therefore I want success — the European Cup'.That's his problem. He continually changes the team in search of this goal, but this could backfire badly on him.

The problem with the French, though, is that they can't handle the pressure. The Germans enjoyed playing under pressure, but not the French.

WS: For a while there were rumours that you would coach the United States for the 1994 World Cup. Why didn't this materialise?

FB: When I made the deal with Marseille I was approached at virtually the same time by Alan Rothenberg (president of the United States Soccer Federation) to become either coach or manager of the US national team, which I then turned down.

Since then I have met Alan many times and have told him yes, I will be involved in some way, but at the moment it is too early for me to commit myself.

I recommended that they appoint the current coach, Bora Milutinovic. He will do well. When I was in New York for the World Cup draw in December, Rothenberg told me he was working on some sort of plan to involve me.

WS: Will US '94 be a success?

FB: Yes, definitely. The US might not be a soccer-mad country like Mexico or Italy, but I think the matches will be well attended.

Many of the people coming to watch may not know the rules of the game but the novelty value and the sense of the occasion will draw them into the stadiums.

WS: As a manager you developed a habit of standing next to the team bench for the entire duration of the game. Why?

FB: The first time I was involved as coach of the German national team we played in Dusseldorf. I soon discovered that the worst position for a coach is to be sitting on the bench, because your view is very limited, so during the game, I stood up and found I had a better view, and it stayed like that.

The best place in the stadium is up in the stands but you need to be close to the field — so standing next to the bench was a compromise that proved to be comfortable and better.

WS: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and yourself were brought back to Bayern Munich to restore the club to greatness. Why has the aura of Bayern Munich disappeared?

FB: To a degree, you could say mismanagement. But it is very difficult to compete with the Italians because they spend so much money buying players, particularly from Germany. In the past four years, four key Bayern Munich players, Matthaus, Brehme, Reuter and Kohler — left to go to Italy. Any club losing players of that calibre is going to suffer.

IVELY TO FRANZ BECKENBAUER

good times
all legend

Gullit . . . a truly great individual player.

Pele . . . the perfect gentleman.

WS: What time frame have you given yourself to succeed with Bayern Munich?

FB: This year the team have been unlucky with injuries to key players — Bayern are far better than their position suggests. It is difficult to say how long it will take to make Bayern great again.

The position that Rummenigge and I have been given is an honorary one. We were approached in October when the members were voting for the board of directors and with the state that the club was in, it was critical that the President, Dr Fritz Scherer, had to come up with something special in order to be re-elected.

When he mentioned the names of Rummenigge and myself, everyone was happy and he was re-elected. That was an important first step to getting Bayern back on track.

WS: As an executive vice-president, how involved are you with the team?

FB: Our role is advisory, acting with the team manager, Erich Ribbeck. Every week we have a meeting where we discuss the last weekend's game although I don't travel to away games. I attend most of the home matches, and in total I am at my office for five or six days a month.

WS: Can Ruud Gullit ever be the players he was?

FB: He's on the way back and is playing well and yes, he can be as good as he was four years ago. It's great to have him back because there are few truly great individual players in the game today.

WS: When West Germany played Holland in the World Cup, you must have known that Gullit was not nearly the player he was two years before that. Did that mean that you placed less emphasis on him in your tactical build-up to the match?

FB: Yes, we knew Gullit wasn't the force that he had been, and that Van Basten was only a shade of himself. But with the Dutch, you can never be sure. When the Germans play 100 per cent, the Dutch play 120 per cent! I saw them play in the earlier group matches and they were so poor, yet against us they were transformed.

WS: Does Bertie Vogts ever ask you for advice?

FB: No, he doesn't need to. We were together for six years on the coaching staff of the German national team and we played together for 15 years. We know each other so well and there's nothing I can teach him now.

Nearly all the players have been a product of Bertie's coaching at under-21 international level.

WS: Do you think that the modern player is surrounded by too many people?

FB: A soccer player nowadays must have an agent or adviser, but so many get involved with people who give them wrong advice. Whenever there's a problem, you can inevitably trace it back to bad agents/advisers — people who only looked after themselves, to the detriment of the players.

WS: Is Diego Maradona hungry enough to make a comeback?

FB: I don't know if he's got the willpower to get back to where he was. Physical condition is so important, and I can't see him having the motivation to get into correct shape again.

The Japanese League, though, could be made for a Maradona comeback.

I would like to see him back on the field, because after Pele, there has never been a talent like Maradona. But to see him fat and lazy is embarrassing — he's got to get into shape.

WS: If the Japanese start waving the cheque book around, could this seriously threaten European football?

FB: Although they've signed up Gary Lineker I don't think that they will raid the market in a potentially damaging way. They'll sign only a few top players, but no, I don't believe they'll go crazy and spend vast amounts of money.

WS: There could be similarities with the North American Soccer League when the Japanese League is launched. Will the Japanese learn from the mistakes of the Americans?

FB: The Japanese are a few steps ahead of the US in the development of the game. When I went to the US in 1977, there was only a professional league and nothing else. In Japan the infrastructure at grassroots level is already established. But they won't spend endless amounts of money like the Americans did. I also believe they are the only country in Asia capable of hosting a World Cup, and I think they will be awarded it in 2002.

WS: Will you ever go to Japan as a coach or manager?

FB: I work with a number of Japanese companies on a public relations basis, so I know a little about the Japanese way of life. To go there for a few years and live? I couldn't do that.

WS: What are your impressions of African football?

FB: Recent World Cups have shown that African countries can compete with the rest of the world and FIFA's decision to grant them an extra place in the finals was a good one. I wouldn't be surprised if they get a fourth place after the next World Cup.

WS: When you were manager at Marseille, Abedi Pele was a member of your team. How do you rate him?

FB: He's a diamond. He's a lovely person and his abilities are tremendous. Goal scoring is not his strength, but I used to tell him: 'Abedi, when you've got the ball, just go. No one in the world can stop you. Go into the penalty area and if you don't score, they will bring you down.' He is so fast, so skilfull — one of the best dribblers that I have ever seen.

WS: Are penalty shoot-outs good for soccer?

FB: Decades ago, it was the toss of the coin that decided the winner. Now it's penalties. What else can you do? If you play sudden death you could end up with a game taking more than three hours. Penalties are not the answer. But what is the answer? I don't know.

WS: If you started all over, would you choose football again?

FB: When I grew up there was only one major sport, soccer. Golf and tennis in Germany weren't remotely as big then as they are today. We played soccer barefoot and with a tennis ball in the street — we had no other choice. I have always preferred team sports to individual sports and, yes, I'd do the same again.

WS: Out of all the players that you've played with and managed, who has made the biggest impression on you in terms of handling the media, the public . . . their celebrity status?

FB: Pele. He would sign autographs for hours and always be kind to people and give of his time willingly. He was always the perfect gentleman. It always boils down to the individual's attitude. All the great players, like Pele and Bobby Charlton, always have time for people.

WS: In all the hundreds of interviews you've done, what is the question you least enjoy answering?

FB: About money! Many of the German journalists write fantasy numbers about how much I earn. There must be a rule introduced allowing me to sue a magazine for the difference between what they say I earn and how much I really earn. Then I'd really be rich!

WS: Has there been anything money couldn't buy you?

FB: What's money? It's nice because you can buy this or that, but for me, money doesn't mean anything. I don't need material things — life is about being alive, happy and satisfied. You can be happy and satisfied in a very simple way.

THE KAISER'S CRYSTAL BALL

Germany to win... Holland to place

FRANZ BECKENBAUER is a veteran of four World Cups and four European Championships as player, captain and manager of West Germany. So when Kaiser Franz talks his views are worthy of respect. On these pages he gives his European Championship forecast, and looks back on his years in the game.

Clever . . . Rudi Voller.

GROUP ONE

FRANCE

THEIR football is booming at the moment. Their domestic league is strong; last year Marseille reached the final of the Champions' Cup and the international team were unbeaten for almost two seasons under Michel Platini.

STRENGTH: The Marseille influence, which makes up a large portion of the international team. These eight Marseille players have built up a tremendous understanding at club level, which they carry through to the national team.

WEAKNESS: The quality of the team is undisputed but when the French come under pressure, I don't believe they know how to handle it.

KEY PLAYER: Papin, without a doubt. In my book he is one of the most lethal forwards anywhere. He's the current *WORLD SOCCER* player of the year. He's got tunnel vision — only knows where the goal is — and attacks like a machine gun.

QUESTION MARK: How will France cope if, for some reason, Papin is off form? He is such a pivotal player that if he doesn't function, neither will the French. Also, will they be able to handle the pressure? I have my doubts. That's why I don't see them making the final.

PREDICTED FINISH: Top of Group One.

ENGLAND

A TREMENDOUS showing in the World Cup in Italy did a lot to erase the memory of a disastrous 1988 European Championship. Political upheaval will have weakened the Yugoslavs, which will be fortunate for England when it comes down to the four semi-final places.

In 1988, people were predicting great things for English and they flopped; in Italy they surprised everyone by finishing fourth. They are highly unpredictable.

STRENGTH: With some exceptions — Shilton, Waddle, Gascoigne, Butcher and Robson — England are much the same as they were in Italy, which is always a plus factor. Also, their defence have a solid record and they don't give away goals easily.

WEAKNESS: English soccer is commiting suicide with the length of the domestic season. The players could arrive in Sweden burnt out.

KEY PLAYERS: Gascoigne's the type of character the game needs. He does things with the ball that you seldom see nowadays. He will be missed. Lineker is still in top shape, scoring regularly, and any player who knows he is about to retire from international football is determined to go out in style.

QUESTION MARK: Can England's jaded troops lift themselves for a gruelling championship? I can't believe they will and England will be hard pressed to get a semi-final spot.

PREDICTED FINISH: Runners-up in Group One by the closest of margins.

Lethal . . . Jean-Pierre Papin.

SWEDEN

THEIR World Cup performances in Italy were very disappointing after some promising displays in the qualifying matches. Playing at home in front of an expectant audience could prove both an advantage and disadvantage!

STRENGTH: For a small country they have a team of players who are really committed to their country — extremely patriotic.

WEAKNESS: Inexperience — their players are not going to know how to cope with the pressure, both on and off the field.

KEY PLAYER: No one player stands out — it is very much a team effort.

QUESTION MARK: How much will the Swedish public expect from their team, and how are the players going to react? Will they rise to the occasion, or will it prove too much?

PREDICTED FINISH: Third in the group — there's not much to choose between Sweden and England.

YUGOSLAVIA

RED STAR'S victory in last year's Champions' Cup will have done much for the confidence of their key internationals, but, once again, much is going to depend on what selection criteria they use — whether the Croatians will play or not.

Normally Yugoslavia would be a team to watch out for, but the depletion of the squad will ensure disappointing displays. An under-strength Yugoslavia won't survive at the top level.

STRENGTH: Like France, Yugoslavia have a strong contingent made up from one club. Their two key players — Pancev and Savicevic — were both central figures in Red Star's victorious European campaign.

WEAKNESS: Yugoslavia will be substantially weakened without the Croatians, including Prosinecki, runner-up to Papin as World Player of the Year.

KEY PLAYERS: Savicevic is an excellent midfielder, and Pancev is a quick-thinking striker who likes to limit his movements to the penalty area and waits for his chances. Different in style from Papin, but also lethal.

QUESTION MARK: What effects will the internal turmoil have on the team? How will the players respond?

PREDICTED FINISH: Last in the group.

GROUP TWO

CIS

THE Soviet Union finished runner-up to Holland in 1988 and under normal circumstances they would be considered a dangerous side — even though the team have changed much over the past four years.

Now, the uncertainty surrounding the selection of the team makes it difficult to predict their potential impact.

STRENGTH: In the past, their total commitment to one another — a "team" in the true sense of the word.

WEAKNESS: Since the ban on players leaving the Soviet Union was lifted, virtually the entire squad have been scattered around Europe. Although they may be broadening their international horizons, they will not have that closeness and understanding that the players had developed by playing together at club and international level.

KEY PLAYER: Michailichenko, if he can recapture his form of three or four years ago.

QUESTION MARK: How are the players going to respond to possibly representing a team of collective states, as opposed to playing for their "country"?

PREDICTED FINISH: Third in Group 2.

SCOTLAND

THEY have an extremely poor World Cup campaign behind them and nearly missed going to Sweden after squandering a two-goal lead against a second-rate (in a footballing sense) nation, Switzerland. I would be surprised if they made it to the semis.

STRENGTHS: None visible. They are just an average team.

WEAKNESS: Inexperience. Too often at international level they have let vital leads slip away.

KEY PLAYERS: No single performer whose absence would have a negative impact if he were out of the side.

QUESTION MARKS: If they find themselves ahead in a match, will they be able to hold on? Or will they crumble again?

PREDICTED FINISH: Last in Group 2.

GERMANY

WITH a united Germany, manager Berti Vogts has a vast pool of talent to draw from. There's been only one retirement since Italia '90 — Augenthaler — and Vogts inherited a virtually unchanged squad, having the experience of a World Cup victory. As reigning champions of the world, Germany will start as favourites.

STRENGTH: Experience. The squad have remained intact for four years and know what it takes to win a major championship. Their defence is very strong.

WEAKNESS: None. It's a stronger squad than that of 1990, really well balanced.

KEY PLAYERS: Matthaus, the captain, would have shouldered a big responsibility if injury had not ruled him out, but the other key man is Voller. He is a very clever striker, always good for a couple of goals.

QUESTION MARK: Some might say that goalkeeper Ilgner, still only 24, is relatively inexperienced. But he has the experience of a successful World Cup behind him, so it's pointless questioning his credentials.

PREDICTED FINISH: Winners of the tournament.

HOLLAND

THE Dutch won in 1988 and have key players coming into form at just the right moment. Although they are in the same group as Germany, I believe that we will see a Germany v Holland final — they are the two best teams.

Rinus Michels has brought back many of the experienced players from the '88 campaign and they are now playing like the top team they were four years ago. After this, the Dutch will need to rebuild completely.

STRENGTH: As with Germany, experience. At this level experience is priceless and the older players know what it takes to win an international competition.

WEAKNESS: If the older players are injured, their bodies won't be able to recover as quickly as their younger counterparts. Injuries to a couple of these "older heads" could throw the Dutch completely out of their stride.

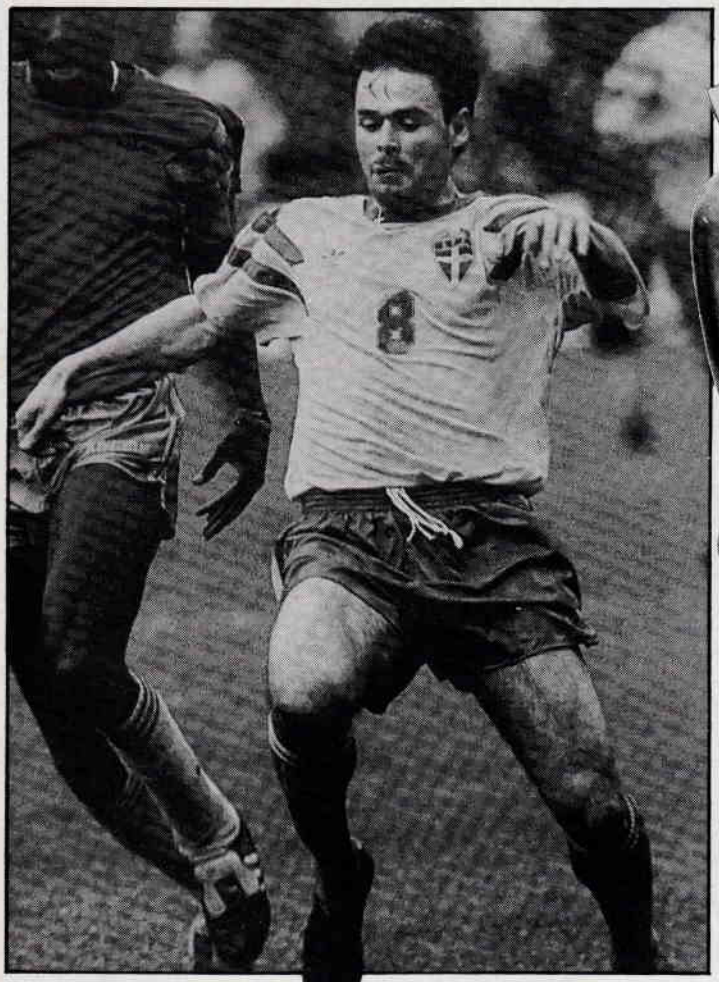
KEY PLAYERS: Van Basten and Gullit. Both are back to their awesome best after a couple of seasons of struggling.

QUESTION MARKS: Will Michels be able to squeeze one more international competition out of players such as Wouters, Van Tiggelen and Van Aerle? Or will the old legs fail to keep up the pace?

PREDICTED FINISH: Second in the group, and overall.

Fans will carry us along

SAYS ANDERS *LIMPAR*



THE Swedish public are looking towards the European Championship with much more confidence than they displayed before the last major tournament they hosted: the 1958 World Cup.

On that occasion Sweden reached the final, losing only to Brazil, but the exploits of Gunnar Gren, Nils Liedholm and Gunnar Nordahl, are mere history to the likes of Anders Limpar and his colleagues.

Showed

Arsenal's Limpar believes Sweden have a good chance of going one better this time, and expects home support to catapult the national team to at least the final stages.

The players are anxious to atone for their poor showing in Italia '90, and Limpar says: "We didn't get the breaks in Italy.

"We were unlucky to lose to Brazil and that showed the importance of not losing your first game.

"This is why our opening match with France is so important. It could be crucial. This will be our hardest game. France have a great record this season and are a very creative team: technically correct, but it might be our advantage to play them first before they have found their rhythm.

"A draw might be enough. If we beat them then our final group match against England might not be so important.

"We respect the power and strength of the English and must not dismiss Yugoslavia either.

But the English seem very unsettled, and uncertain about their best line-up, and we're not sure how the civil war will affect the Slavs."

Limpar did not see eye to eye with coach Ollie Nordin in Italy but he claims there is now a much better spirit, and new confidence under Tommy Svensson.

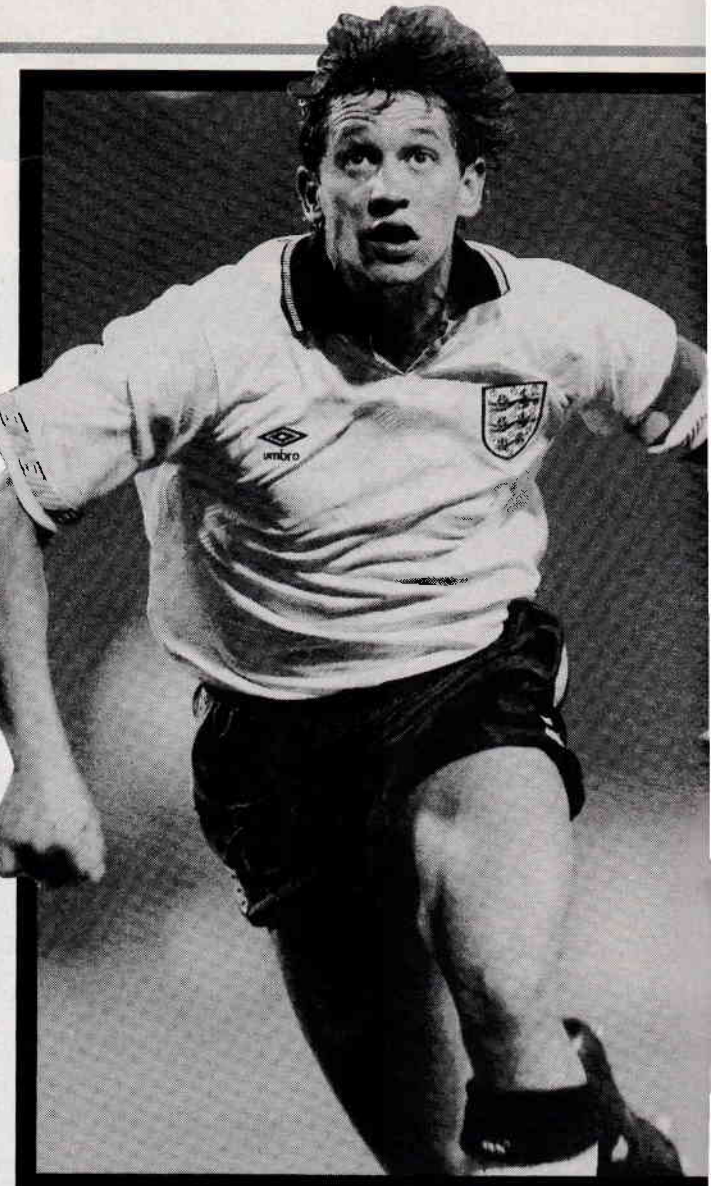
"Tommy favours a 3-5-2 formation which suits me perfectly," says Limpar.

"I can play down the middle, just behind the front two, which is much better than being stuck out on the wing. I'm more involved in the game.

"You will see a bolder more adventurous Sweden, I'm sure. With five instead of four in midfield we should have more of the ball, and Thomas Brolin and Jonas Thern will cause our opponents many problems.

"Our supporters will certainly expect a lot after that World Cup fiasco. This tournament means a lot to us. It's our first big one since 1958 and we may never stage another.

"So we want to put on a fine show, and providing we get a good start I'm sure we will be carried along by the nation's enthusiasm."



Lineker's last hurrah

BY KEIR **RADNEDGE**

Missed chance . . . Carlos saves Lineker's penalty in his final Wembley appearance.

GARY LINEKER grows suddenly, and unusually, cautious when conversation turns to England and the 1992 European Championship.

He's grown used to a string of oft-repeated questions through his last season in English League football. But this 31-year-old master marksman fights shy of presumption about the one last bridge his mainstream career must cross.

Four years ago, in West Germany, Lineker was a disappointment as England lost all three of their matches in the European finals. Later it emerged he had been suffering from a strain of hepatitis and a lengthy rest was ordered. Only now has he the opportunity to put the record straight; and he knows that, this time, there can be no second chance.

This is his last appearance on a major competitive stage. This is win or bust. The last hurrah. Not so much a showdown at the OK Corral as at the KO Corral.

Lineker has faith in his own ability and faith in his team-mates. The threat to England, he believes, comes not so much from Sweden, France and Yugoslavia — their first-round rivals in the European finals — but from the English soccer system.

Lineker, Footballer of the Year for the second time in six years, says: "We play too many games and the character of the English player means he will give everything he has in all of them. But that means the quality just won't be there. That's why we see so much of this stereotyped whacking the ball forward to try to get rebounds.

Structured

"I watch the Italians on TV and it looks as though they're quicker and sharper. They're not. They're just fresher.

"You can't be happy about the way the English game is structured. When Monaco reached the final of the European Cup-winners' Cup the French League brought forward their entire fixture schedule by one day to give them extra time to prepare.

"In England? Tottenham had a semi-final against Nottingham Forest on a heavy pitch. It went to extra time, and three days later we had to play Feyenoord in the quarter-final of the Cup-winners' Cup. All that good stuff played by Leeds and Manchester United this season came down, in the end, to a battle of endurance.

"If we played less, we would get better crowds and the clubs would be able to charge more, as we would be producing a better product."

The unspoken implication is that England's national team would be in better shape to face the technical and tactical subtleties which the European finals will provide.

Once the European challenge has been resolved Lineker's domestic career will end. He has agreed to go to Japan next Spring, to play for Grampus Eight in the new professional league. The £1 million fee has not gone unappreciated at Tottenham, climbing off near bankruptcy, and Lineker will have a six-month sabbatical in which he can spend as much time as he likes with baby son George, whose battle with leukaemia has earned Lineker and wife Michelle national sympathy.

When Lineker attended Buckingham Palace to receive his OBE award, even the Queen asked: "How's your baby?"

George's health is the key to Lineker's future. But one thing is certain: he has played his last domestic football in England . . . with the luckless 1-1 draw against Brazil his final curtain call.

Spotlight on
Dejan ***Savicevic***
BY NICK **BIDWELL**

Bit-part player... but what a significant bit

NOBODY could accuse Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dejan Savicevic of lacking self-confidence.

"I should have been elected European Footballer of the Year for 1991," he says. "What more could I have done last year?

"I played a considerable part when we won the Yugoslav championship, the Champions' Cup and the World Club Cup. And I helped Yugoslavia to qualify for this summer's European Championship finals.

"Jean-Pierre Papin was voted the best in Europe. But I deserved the award more."

You might consider Savicevic to be arrogant. But there can be little doubt of his place among the world elite of attacking players.

Throughout Red Star's European Supercup match against Manchester United last November, he revealed his abundant talents. A Brian McClair goal earned United the trophy, but Savicevic won the Old Trafford popularity contest thanks to his exquisite control, acceleration and willingness to take on — and beat — defenders.

"My main asset is my dribbling," says Savicevic. "It's not a skill that I have practised a lot. I was born with the ability to run with the ball.

"I am often criticised for being a greedy player. Maybe that was true early in my career, but not today. I love to dribble and take risks, but I still create chances for others."

Savicevic's artisry is rightly admired by fans and fellow professionals alike.

Impressed

"Four years ago Red Star met Milan in a Champions' Cup tie and Savicevic really impressed me," says the Italian club's captain, Franco Baresi. "He was a constant danger to us.

"He is left-footed but plays mainly on the right and is very effective at cutting inside. He is so direct and beats defenders with ease."

Not that Baresi need worry about future duels with Savicevic at club level. Milan are reported to have an option on him that could lead to a £4 million transfer.

"I would not refuse a good club in France or Spain," says Savicevic. "But a move to Italy is my priority. When I lived in Titograd I could watch Italian television and loved to see Platini, Boniek and Falcao. The Serie A is the best league in the world.

"I don't think I would have any problems adapting to Italian soccer. The marking will probably be tougher than in Yugoslavia, but that does not worry me."

While few doubt his natural ability, Savicevic's critics believe he has a suspect temperament. Detractors point to his sending-off in Red Star's World Club Cup victory over Chile's Colo Colo last December.

"I was stupid to retaliate," he admits. "But I was very nervous because it was such an important game, and I was not 100 per cent fit."

This was not the first time Savicevic has demonstrated a short fuse. Three years ago he walked out of the Yugoslav squad before a World Cup qualifier.

"At the time I deserved to be in the national team," he explains.

"But the manager, Ivica Osim, only wanted to use me as a substitute. When he told me that I would not start the game, I was furious and left the hotel.

"I acted without thinking. Fortunately Osim accepted my apology and recalled me a month later."

Osim, however, is unlikely to leave Savicevic on the bench for the European Championship. Since returning from Italia 90, he has developed into an international regular, and he naturally hopes Yugoslavia's political turmoil will not prevent the team from going to Sweden.

"The unrest means we cannot make long-term plans," he says. "All I can do is hope that we are allowed to take part.

"We have some excellent players, with the potential to reach the semi-finals. Everything depends on how well we can preapre for the tournament."

Missed tackle . . . Savicevic (left) skips past Manfred Zsak of Austria.

Organised

Dejan Savicevic was born in Titograd on September 15, 1966, but did not play organised football until a relatively advanced age.

"I joined OFK Titograd when I was 15," he remembers. "Until then I had been happy just to play football with my friends in the street."

In 1983 he moved to Titograd's other club, Buducnost, and his attacking prowess immediately earned him a first team spot. Three years later he won the first of 27 senior caps in a European Championship qualifier against Turkey and scored in Yugoslavia's 4-0 victory.

"Savicevic became the hottest property in Yugoslav football," says Red Star's general manager, Dragan Dzajic. "He was so talented that he often won matches for Buducnost on his own.

"Red Star, Partizan Belgrade and Hajduk Spilt were all competing to sign him, but Dejan refused to leave Buducnost. I kept after him and he finally agreed to join us in the summer of 1988.

"Players usually jump at the chance to play for Red Star. But I had to work hard to persuade him."

Hampered

Savicevic's first 12 months as a Red Star employee were hampered by the demands of military service and injury. Yet he had one moment of glory during the 1988-89 season.

In November 1988 Yugoslavia trailed France 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier in Belgrade.

Then Savicevic went on as a substitute 20 minutes from time and created match-winning goals for Safet Susic and Dragan Stojkovic.

At the 1990 World Cup, Savicevic started only one match — the 4-1 defeat by West Germany — and went on as substitute against Spain and Argentina.

But if politics permit, he is likely to play a much more important role in the European Championship.

"Italia 90 was my first international tournament, but was an anti-climax for me," says Savicevic. "I was handicapped by a knee injury and did not really have a chance.

"Today I am sure of my place for Yugoslavia, and I'll be aiming to put on a show in Sweden."

IT'LL BE DIFFERENT IN MALMO

Rix warning for Taylor

BY JOHN **MOYNIHAN**

Rix . . . France learnt a lot from Wembley.

FRANCE will not be the same starstruck, wide-eyed lot parading around the Wembley Christmas tree once the "real action" starts at the European Championship.

This warning comes from Le Havre, where former England and Arsenal midfielder Graham Rix is based. He watched England beat their Group One opponents 2-0 at Wembley, where he had appeared in three successive FA Cup finals, 1978-80.

"To say the French lads were starstruck and overawed by the Wembley atmosphere in April would be an understatement," Rix observed.

He has just completed an injury-troubled season for Le Havre, and after three previous seasons with Caen, he knows most of the players manager Michel Platini has selected.

"I have played against most of them during my stay in France, and know they felt almost humble about playing at Wembley," he said.

Wanted

"For many teams, international, or otherwise, it's the be-all and end-all of stadiums to play in. The French lads were conscious that their team had not played at Wembley since 1969, when England stuffed them 5-1.

"The present team wanted desperately to do well this time, but I felt they were lacking in confidence.

"They were almost humble in defeat. But in saying this, here lies my warning. France will be quite a different set-up when the teams meet again in Malmo. They learnt a lot at Wembley."

Rix, who lives in a large thatched house with his wife Gill and four children, warns Graham Taylor's squad not to expect the type of probing, investigative tactics which the French brought to Wembley.

Rix, the thorough-going Yorkshireman, looks more like a French racehorse trainer these days with his flat grey cap, leather jacket and Range Rover. Certainly he is a good judge of players, as he was in his Arsenal days.

"Jean-Pierre Papin is an extraordinary player — you only have to be on the same pitch to feel that hunger he has for scoring," he says.

Before the Wembley match, Rix had a chat with his old Arsenal manager, Don Howe. "I told Don that France were good tactically, very hard-working, and well organised. They'll be on the boil at exactly the right time."

Friendly matches against Switzerland in Lausanne and Holland in Lens will take place before and after their get together at Le Touquet.

As our Norman mole points out, Platini, by then, will know his strongest side, having switched his options during warm-up matches, and picked players to play in different positions.

"He has a lot of good players around — and has always tried to keep the same nucleus going. Some players have found their roles have been slightly different.

"Platini would hate to have a stereotyped team. He's a manager who likes to adjust to certain situations."

Cantona . . . the fiery forward has become a favourite at Elland Road.

Rix remembers vividly that boiling afternoon in Bilbao when he was a member of Ron Greenwood's England team who beat France 3-1 in their first World Cup match ten years ago.

"We did very well, because France had a number of outstanding players at the time. There were rumours they had been over-trained beforehand under Michel Hidalgo — but they picked themselves up and were very unlucky not to reach the final.

"Winning the 1984 European Championship in France was proof of this side's greatness."

After the Mexico World Cup, the French team fell apart — and it was mainly due to Platini that they have revived to achieve an outstanding record up to this year's championship.

Rix's personal choice of the team Platini may choose for their opening game against Sweden is based on his own observations of the players involved — and a chance to read Platini's mind once the pressure is really on.

These are his views:

MARTINI *(AUXERRE)*: Not spectacular in the continental style — very solid and safe. Could play without trouble in the Football League. Makes very few mistakes.

ANGLOMA *(MARSEILLE)*: Best when going forward. Very, very quick. Has moved around the French scene, having played for Rennes, Lille and Paris SG.

AMOROS *(MARSEILLE)*: Broke the French appearance record of 76 caps when he played at Wembley. Can be a little too fiery for his own well-being. This could be his last international tournament — and he will be out to impress.

BLANC *(NAPOLI)*: World class, no doubt. An excellent footballer with an alert brain. He's quick, very good in the air, and can be very dangerous at set plays. One of Platini's key weapons.

BOLI *(MARSEILLE)*: Really hard, fast and determined marker. Like Blanc, very dangerous at set plays. Can score goals — eight for Marseille in the 1990-91 season. Where he can be found out is in a lack of positional sense, and lack of speed.

PETIT *(MONACO)*: Can do a sound job on marking quick centre-forwards. Young, and an emerging talent. He can play left-back and sweeper with equal success. Platini has tried him in various positions.

DESCHAMPS *(MARSEILLE)*: A little bit like Bryan Robson in style. Tons of energy. Very confident — not a real class player, but one you would hate not to have in a team.

SAUZEE *(MARSEILLE)*: Big, powerful lad. Two good feet. Not as mobile as Deschamps. Again, very dangerous at free-kicks. A great bender of the ball.

PEREZ *(PSG)*: I've played against this lad several times. He's only small, but loves to run past you. In the style of an Alain Giresse — but not quite so talented! He's one to watch in Sweden.

CANTONA *(LEEDS)*: Seems to have relished his part in helping Leeds win the Championship. The Elland Road crowd have certainly taken to him. He got away with a lot in France — in England, you don't take your shirt off and throw it at the trainer.

PAPIN *(MARSEILLE)*: There are only three words to describe this right-footed player — goals, goals, goals. Allow him the slightest chance and he's off.

Rix also names **Casoni** *(Marseille)*, **Silvestre** *(Sochaux)*, **Fernandez** *(Cannes)*, **Cocard** and **Vahirua** *(both Auxerre)* as likely to appear in the tournament.

Tuck into dagans ratt when in Sweden...

INFORMATION: EURO 92 is the widely-used logo for the European Championship; EM (Europa Mästerskap, the Swedish translation) is also in use.

Special EURO 92 information desks at stations and city centres provide information on accommodation, travel and matters relating to the championships. In addition, there are the usual tourist offices.

UEFA strongly advise supporters without match tickets not to travel to Sweden: The qualifying games are already sold out and a chance to buy a ticket on the spot is remote. Tickets to semi-finals will be equally divided among supporters of the qualifying teams and will be available from their country's football representatives in Sweden once the places have been decided.

MONEY: Kronor (kr or SEK), approximately £1 = 10 kr.

FOOD AND DRINK: Eating out — especially in the evenings — is expensive. Lunchtime Dagens Ratt (Menu of the Day) offered by many restaurants comprise a main dish, salad, drink and coffee and cost 45-75kr.

The traditional Scandinavia smorgasbord, where you help yourself to a large variety of dishes for a set price, is hard to find. Light beer can be bought at supermarkets; the stronger Class III beer, wines and spirits are available only from the government-run System Bolaget, open during weekdays.

Booked

The least expensive wines cost 35kr a bottle; spirits are around 300kr a bottle. In a pub a Stor Stark (literally Big Strong) refers to a 1/2 litre of beer and costs anything from 30kr.

ACCOMMODATION: An inexpensive alternative to the hotels, most of which are fully booked, are the camp sites (some have cottages) and the youth hostels which can cost less than 100kr a night.

In addition, tent cities are to be erected in the venue areas. Take a tent or buy (200kr) or rent one on the spot.

TRAVEL: Special EURO 92 trains provide direct links between the four venues. For those wanting to see something more of Sweden there is the EURO 92 train card which allows limitless rail travel through the country for 15.00kr.

Supporters with valid match tickets have free use of public transport within the city during the day of the match.

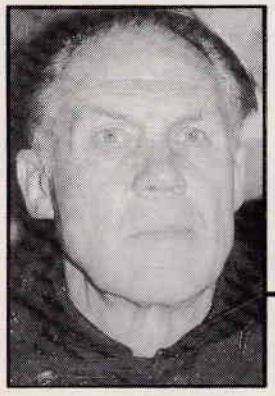
APART FROM FOOTBALL: Each city-venue is organising an array of entertainment, and U2 (10-11th), Bruce Springsteen (15th and 17th) and Bryan Adams (24th) have concerts in Stockholm in June.

Swimming, fishing and sailing are popular and the Stockholm archipelago is beautiful.

WEATHER: Swedes usually regard June — a month of warmth and light in stark contrast to the cold dark winter — as the best time of the year. In Stockholm, the sun barely sets around midsummer.

ADDRESSES: Swedish Tourist Office (London). 071 437 5817. British Embassy, Skarpogatan, Stockholm. 08-667-0140. English Football Supporters' Association, Brunnsgatan 2a, Stockholm. 08-796 9699 (from June 15).

KEIR **RADNEDGE** INTERVIEWS RINUS **MICHELS** AND ANDY **ROXBURGH**



We are the favourites...

but Germany will be difficult

KR: Rinus Michels, manager of the European Champions Holland, what did you think of the draw for the finals?

RM: Nils Liedholm, with his experience in football, did a very good job when he made the draw! The qualities of the two groups are well balanced and if France theoretically asked me to switch groups, I wouldn't do it.

KR: What do you think about each of the opponents in your group — the other teams?

RM: Every journalist is talking about only two teams, Germany and Holland. That is understandable with Germany as World Champions and Holland as European Champions. We are old rivals and always compete at a high level. Everybody is interested in matches between the two but nevertheless the game will be quite different from the semi-final in Germany in 1988. It will be the third game and both teams will come into the match with points in the bag which is going to influence quality and the kind of game you will see.

It's normal that we are favourites because we have both won titles. The other teams have not got that problem — it makes them a little freer in their approach to the games. They are not as stressed as we are probably. Stress will be one of the big opponents for Holland and Germany — we will have to prove it again. The others are a little freer in their approach and it makes them more dangerous.

We know Scotland's style, but I don't know if they are going to do the same thing as England did in the World Cup and adapt to continental tactical qualities. I hope not for our sake, not that Scotland are easier opponents, but you know better how to oppose them, how you have to play.

Deserved

The Soviets are always underestimated. It is probably to do with the fact that, in the last moments of tournaments, they lack some quality needed to be the best. In 1988 in Germany they beat us in the first match. In the final, as most people have forgotten, they were the better team in the first half and they were close to taking the lead. In the second half we scored a goal at a very important time and then we played better and we deserved the title. But nevertheless they proved to be a very strong team and I'm still thinking about how they beat Italy. That was impressive, one of the best games I have seen, especially from the Soviet team. In the qualification matches they proved to be a strong team again.

People are talking about the influence of the political situation, which sometimes has a negative effect. Romania had the same problem but it only lasted a few weeks, but after so many months it will have no influence on the performance and quality of the CIS. So summing up the whole thing, we are the favourites.

KR: How does your own team compare now, leading up to the finals, with the team that won in 1988?

RM: The fact that we lost two or three players is not such an important thing for the quality of the team. But some leading players, and I am especially thinking about Ruud Gullit who played the decisive role in Germany, are not in the same condition, physically and mentally, as they were before. Gullit is going up and down. In recent League games in Italy he again proved to be very strong but then he had a setback when he got sick. In Sweden the performance and quality of Gullit will be a very important thing. If he is in form and we do well in the first game, we will again grow into a team who can reach the final.

KR: Looking at the tournament in general are there any particular individual players you expect to do well in Sweden from the other teams?

Proved

RM: We also hope that our specialist will play a key role in the results, as he did in Germany — he is Marco Van Basten. Sometimes in the qualifying matches he proved again that he is able at any moment to decide a match. That is what we are hoping he will do again over there.

Fortunately for us Frank Rijkaard is back and he is doing very well. He will want to show in Sweden that he is an excellent player and a fair player, and to forget what happened in Italy. Our goalkeeper, Hans Van Breukelen, is getting older but he is like old red wine — he is getting better and better and even though he is a specialist he might play a key role. We are not that happy at the moment with the back line. We still have to improve it. The midfield, when everybody is on board, is a good line. Up front we have Dennis Bergkamp, who is doing very well with Ajax where he is scoring a lot of goals. For the national team he still hasn't broken the spell around him and is still looking for a little confidence to do the same as he is doing for Ajax.

KR: What about any players of the other teams in the European finals? Are there any particular individual players you think you like?

RM: The German players we know more or less and we know the very important role Matthaus plays in the German team and how much they will miss him. We know the strikers. They will bring in Karlheinz Riedle, a new striker who is playing in Italy too. He is very dangerous in the area. He is like Van Basten, not that skilful but a specialist in scoring goals. Voller is still there and we know him. He is very experienced, very clever. He does everything possible to get the best of any situation in and around the area. They are important players for Germany. I am not familiar with the Scottish team or the CIS team at the moment — I don't know if they have still got a lot of the players they had in 1988.

Up against the very best

Yet Scotland can cause an upset

KR: What do you think of the draw for Scotland in the finals?

AR: It's certainly a very interesting draw and a very tough one. We obviously worked our way into the finals for the first time and that gives you the right to play against the best. But when we entered the draw we didn't realise they were going to give us the very best and they gave us the World Champions and the present European Champions. A lot of people will view that as being excessive but we view it very positively because our players enjoy playing against better sides. We seem to raise our game in matches like that and therefore we're optimistic. We're looking forward to it.

KR: And if you want to make progress then you have to play those teams anyway.

AR: Exactly. If you want to play against the best and if you want to get forward into the semi-finals. We were quite pleased to avoid England because of all the emotions attached to that and because it means now that if we do meet, it will be the semi-finals so we'll take that.

KR: What about travelling for your fans? Obviously Scotland have a very enthusiastic following. How will the venues work out for them?

AR: Norkopping is an awkward venue for us to get to but, knowing our supporters, they will find a way there. We have been to some strange destinations in recent times and the crowd amaze me. I don't know how they get to the places they do. Places like Sofia and Bucharest. They always seem to turn up so I am sure that Norkopping will be no problem to them. There will be a lot of tartan around the place.

Qualified

KR: Scotland have been in finals of the World Cup regularly. Now you are in the European Championship for the first time. Scotland have never gone beyond the first stage in any World Cup. Do you think you can change that around this time?

AR: It's about time we had a little luck. We've been extremely unlucky in some of the world finals — in 1974 we didn't lose a game and still didn't progress.

Even in the last World Cup we were extremely unlucky. We were only six minutes away from qualification and then we lost a very unfortunate goal.

We are due a break, but we are going to have to play to our absolute best. If we can do that and if there is any luck flying around then who knows, maybe we will just push our way into one of those semi-final slots.

KR: How do you look back on your qualifying campaign?

AR: We were probably in the toughest group because in any of the other groups one team was rather an obvious winner of it.

In our group there were four teams who could all have qualified, all were capable of doing it and we had to battle each other to survive and Scotland were fortunate enough to get top spot.

But it was a very complex and demanding group. We started very well by winning our first two home games and then we got a good away draw against Bulgaria.

In spite of having umpteen call-offs during that campaign, we managed to finish first. So we feel that, in difficult circumstances, we've earned the right to be in the finals and we've come here to enjoy it.

KR: How do you compare your current team with the other Scotland teams that have appeared in World Cup Finals in recent years?

AR: It's difficult to compare teams because every era has its star players and I would say of the present group, that there is nice harmony and the players play for each other. There's a team feeling about it. And we have a number of players who are capable of shining when we come here, even though at the moment the rest of Europe don't recognise them as being in the top level. Given the opportunity we are going to see them pretty much as being star players in European terms.

Involved

KR: Do you think the European Finals will contain any tactical developments? Anything new that you ought to watch out for?

AR: Every Championship throws up something different. I worked for FIFA and at the World Cup '86, I was one of the people who wrote a technical report and it was interesting to see some of the developments that came at first hand. Scotland were involved in the last World Championships and at each event something new crops up, some new development. But the bottom line is quality of players and there's no doubt that in this particular championship there's a great deal of talent.

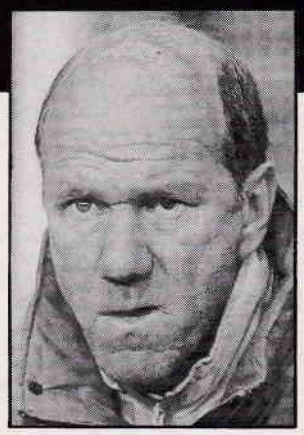
KR: Any particular players you think will emerge in these finals — any up and coming players?

AR: Papin, of course. In his case we denied him the right to play in the last World Cup because Scotland were the last team to beat France before their defeat at Wembley. We beat them in Glasgow and knocked them out of the World Cup.

Papin has had a fantastic qualifying campaign and it will be interesting to see whether he can now produce on this final stage.

He's got the ability and he's one that I would take to be a star. But then who knows? Sometimes in these championships someone emerges who nobody had thought of. You never know — it may even be a Scotsman.

Festival of high standards



TOMMY **SVENSSON**
INTERVIEWED BY
KEIR **RADNEDGE**

KR: What did you think of the draw for the finals?

TS: First of all it was very exciting and we have two well balanced groups. It is going to be very tough.

KR: What do you think of the other teams in your group?

TS: France are perhaps the best team in Europe. England are always England, they made a very good effort in the last World Cup and we know all the English players very well. Here in Sweden as we can follow them on TV, playing every Saturday during the winter. Yugoslavia have been, for me, one of the best teams in Europe for the last two or three years, so of course it is very difficult for us but I think I can say we have an advantage in playing at home, not only because of the clubs but more because of the environment. We are used to living here, to eating the food and to training on the surfaces that we know well.

Tried

KR: A lot of your best players play abroad in different countries. Does this mean problems for you in preparing for the final?

TS: That is the main problem for me. I have at least 15 players abroad who could be possibles for these championships. And to check them all means a lot of travelling and it creates some problems but we are used to it — it has been like that for some time now.

KR: How would you compare your team, as you see it developing for the finals, with the Sweden team that played at the last World Cup?

TS: I think and hope that we can play better now than in the last World Cup. We have tried to change our play a little bit and be more offensive, with more passes in midfield and more technical football, but we are still improving.

KR: Are there any particular individual footballers in the other teams in your group or in the finals in general that impress you?

TS: There are a lot of outstanding players in all of the other teams. Gary Lineker for example with England, the best scorer in the world, perhaps. You have the same with Jean-Pierre Papin in the French team and Darko Pancev in the Yugoslav team.

KR: So your defence will have to be on top form.

TS: That has been a bit of a problem for the last year — our defence — so we must improve at the back if we are to have any chance at all.

KR: This is the first time that Sweden have reached the finals of the European Championship.

TS: That's because we are the hosts!

KR: How will the Swedish public respond to your team?

TS: They will support us very much and it's going to be a great event for Swedish football in general. I am certain it will be a festival of high standards.

KR: Do you think there will be any new tactical developments in the finals?

TS: No, not so much new, but we can expect a more spectacular championship than we saw in the World Cup. All these teams are playing technical, attacking football and that's what the crowd like to see.

KR: Also it's harder to qualify for these finals than the World Championships.

TS: Yes, but when you are there it's going to be a high-quality event.

Svensson banks on home support

Dahlin . . . one of Sweden's big hopes for Euro '92.

Papin . . . key member of the France squad.

Platini aims at success with style

BY PHIL **SHIRLEY**

MICHEL PLATINI is a first among equals. To lead outstanding players such as Jean-Pierre Papin, Eric Cantona and Laurent Blanc by footballing example is a measure of French coach Platini's ability.

France were unbeaten for over two years, until February's friendly at Wembley, and became the first country to qualify for a European Championship by winning every match.

They do not play the same flamboyant football as the European Champions of 1984, but they have progressed sufficiently to go into this year's competition as favourites.

The French must prove they have not peaked too early. Platini insists they have not, and that his team have only just started to flourish.

Determined

"In our last European group match, against Iceland in Paris, when we had already qualified, the players produced the best football I have seen, anywhere in the world, for years," said Platini.

"The defeat at Wembley was of no great significance. People talk about psychological advantage, but nobody has seen the best of France. In Sweden, we hope, they will."

There is no doubt France have the ability to win the European Championship, but Platini's side lack international experience. Only Papin, Manuel Amoros and Luis Fernandez have played in a major tournament.

"I do not think that will be a problem," Platini says. "It could be to our advantage. Most of the players are in their mid-twenties and because they have never won any major honours they will be determined to make the most of the opportunity.

"The team could peak at the World Cup finals, but the present potential is enormous.

"The players relish the challenge to show the rest of Europe just what they can do." That's confidence for you — but Platini admits that there are no weak teams in the competition.

"Sweden are a very strong, athletic side and they will have their home crowd behind them — you can never underestimate the host nation," he says.

"Yugoslavia have some of the most talented players in the world. Savicevic, Prosinecki, Pancev are magnificent footballers and again it would be foolish to underestimate them."

Of England, Platini says: "They will be one of the teams to beat. Graham Taylor has many experienced players. But we are not afraid of them."

The French will hinge on Papin, Cantona and Blanc. The latter two are the only players in the French team currently playing abroad — Cantona at Leeds and Blanc for Napoli — with Papin poised to join Milan next season.

"They are fine footballers and great athletes," says Platini. "Cantona is so important that I would pick him even if he had not played a game for Leeds. He is exceptional, he sees things others cannot see.

"Eric creates goals out of nothing. Like Papin he is a beautiful footballer and perfectionist. He will try to make a skilful assist rather than score an ugly goal."

Platini adds: "Blanc has contributed to our success as much as Cantona and Papin.

I changed the way we played to accommodate him. He gives us balance and versatility, and typifies the way we play.

"We have kept the desire to play attractive attacking football, but combined it with effectiveness.

"In Sweden. I want us to play with style and go for goals. And we have the players to do it."

Rising star . . . Martini spectacularly turns a shot over the crossbar.

Spotlight on
Bruno ***Martini***
BY NICK **BIDWELL**

Flying high
Keeper plans to be a pilot

AUXERRE goalkeeper Bruno Martini is a high-flyer in more ways than one. Not only has he matured into one of the world's best keepers, he also intends to earn a living as a pilot when he retires from the game.

"I've always been fascinated by aircraft," he says.

"An international football career involves a lot of air travel, and I'm often allowed into the cockpit to watch the pilots in action.

"I'm taking flying lessons and making good progress. But that does not mean that I'll be quitting soccer shortly. At 30 I still have several years left."

French international Martini ruptured ankle ligaments while warming up for a friendly at Angouleme early this year.

"I was out for three months and unfortunately missed France's visit to England in February," he says. "I had been looking forward to performing at Wembley. I'm a great admirer of the English way of playing, and when I was younger, my favourite keepers were British. My idols were Pat Jennings and Peter Shilton."

This season English football has dominated the French. Auxerre lost to Liverpool in the UEFA Cup and then France went down at Wembley.

"Perhaps it will be our turn when we meet England in the European Championship," says Martini.

Recalled

Martini is the heir to former French international keeper Joel Bats for both club and country. In 1985 he was recalled from a loan spell at Nancy to replace Bats, who was bound for Paris Saint-Germain.

And when Bats retired from international football in January 1990, Martini was promoted to fill the vacancy.

"I fully expected to take over when Joel quit," says Martini. "After all, I was first called into France's squad in 1986 and for the next four years I was No. 2.

"People expect me to say that I was frustrated at being a reserve for so long. I was satisfied just to be in the squad — and Joel taught me a great deal.

"He played 51 times for France and was one of the most talented keepers in our history. I have 20 caps, and it will be very difficult for me to equal Joel's achievements."

Martini and Bats have more in common than their goalkeeping prowess. Both are renowned for their reserved personalities, and each has cultivated an intellectual image.

During the 1980s Bats received much publicity concerning his passion for writing poetry. Now Martini is known for his love of chess, computers and mathematics.

"Bruno is a very intelligent guy," says his France team-mate, Basile Boli. "That quality has made him one of the most capable keepers in international football.

"He spends considerable time analysing his technique and working at ways to improve. He has video tapes of goals he has conceded, and studies them endlessly.

"Bruno is so critical of himself. He is such a perfectionist."

Martini was born on January 25, 1962, in Nevers, and was encouraged by his father, who played in goal for a local team.

"When I was young he taught me all he knew," says Martini. "I loved to leap for crosses and dive around my penalty area."

As a schoolboy, Martini kept goal for the Vauzelles club and in 1977 he signed with Nevers. Three years later he moved to Third Division Beaune, and in the summer of 1981 Auxerre coach Guy Roux offered him the chance to turn professional.

Noticed

"I remember the first time that I saw Bruno," says Roux. "I noticed he had extremely big hands. More importantly, he knew how to use them. He caught everything the opposition threw at him.

"I was also most impressed by his temperament. His defence was put under a lot of pressure, but he always remained very calm."

Despite Roux's glowing report, Martini did not experience instant success at Auxerre. During his first two years there, he was unable to rise above Joel Bats and Didier Loiseau in the club's goalkeeping hierarchy, and in 1983 he went on loan to Nancy.

"Some of my friends told me I was wasting my time by accepting a loan," says Martini. "But I looked at the move as a promotion. I had been Auxerre's third-choice keeper. At Nancy I would be deputy to Jean-Michel Moutier."

Yet he was not destined for a lengthy stint on the bench. A month into the 1983-84 season Moutier was injured, and Martini stepped in for a game with Laval.

It was a classic tale of one player's misfortune prompting another's rise to fame. While Martini's fine displays earned him a regular spot in the Nancy goal, Moutier slipped out of the back-door to join Paris Saint-Germain.

In the summer of 1985 Bats left Auxerre to join Paris SG, and Roux wasted no time in recalling Martini. His career was about to take off.

The then France manager, Henri Michel, called Martini into his squad to face Northern Ireland in February 1986, and some 18 months later he made his international debut as a substitute in a 2-1 defeat in West Germany.

"My ambitions as a footballer are quite simple," says Martini. "I want to be regarded as a good goalkeeper, and I hope to keep playing professionally until I'm 40."

Old master . . . Bats in action at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

Dobrovolski, the gold dust kid

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

IGOR DOBROVOLSKI says simply: "Nothing will ever be the same again."

A double edge attaches to the words of the one man whose talents could achieve more for the CIS than anyone expects.

Euro '92 marks the final break-up of the Soviet Union, in football terms. The name may have changed, to suit the political climate. But the team which goes out against Germany, Holland and Scotland is the Soviet team which battled through an awkward qualifying group.

After the European finals the CIS will disappear. But the players will go on, to play, in the most cases, for Russia or Ukraine. National pride, in these finals, hardly exists for them. But individual ambition . . . that's another matter.

Particularly for Dobrovolski, a wandering gypsy with more to prove than most.

He says: "I have not really had a club for two years. Not like other players. Nowhere I could call home."

Dobrovolski was born in Odessa, Ukraine, on August 27, 1957. At school he played handball and was a boxer.

Turned

When mother put a stop to the boxing Dobrovolski turned to football instead. One door closing opened another wide.

At 13 Dobrovolski was enrolled in the special sports school in Kishinov, Moldavia. Here he was spotted by Kiev Dynamo, the dominant force in Soviet soccer. They liked him; he hated them.

The scientific theorism of Valeri Lobanovski was alien to Dobrovolski's nature. He ran away back to Kishinov and joined the local second division team.

Kiev pursued Dobrovolski again. To escape he flew north and signed for Moscow Dynamo instead.

Dobrovolski says: "It was an awful long way from home. But I never had any second thoughts. I'd always wanted to be a professional footballer."

He uses the phrase "professional footballer" carelessly, apparently forgetting that, officially, such a status never existed. Footballers under the Soviet system were not paid for playing, only for their "real" (i.e. imaginary) jobs. They were what we used to call "state amateurs."

In late 1987 the state soccer planners met to map out the year ahead which included assaults on the European Championship (in West Germany) and the Olympic Games (in Seoul). Deliberately, it was agreed that Dobrovolski and his Moscow Dynamo team-mates would be chanelled into the Olympic bid.

Dobrovolski collected not only a gold medal but the top scorer's award in Seoul. His real reward was promotion to the senior national squad for the 1990 World Cup.

The Soviets were the first to book their tickets home. But not before Dobrovolski's trickery on the wing had earned new admirers.

Genoa, among them, were keen to see Dobrovolski providing openings for Tomas Skuhravy.

Agreeing terms with Dobrovolski

and Dynamo was easy enough. Pushing aside the red tape of Soviet bureaucracy was something else.

Genoa President Spinelli began to grow anxious. He called in Genoa's option on Uruguayan forward Carlos Aguilera. Two days later Dobrovolski's international clearance arrived. Too late.

Genoa sent him first to Spain on loan, to play for Castellon. Dobrovolski hated it. He says: "It was all so predictable. Apart from the Madrid clubs and Barcelona there's no quality."

Dreamed

He dreamed of a return to Genoa and breathed a huge sigh of relief at the season's end. But Genoa still didn't want him. Skuhravy and Aguilera had scored 30 goals between them and lifted Genoa into the UEFA Cup. Dobrovolski thought he was coming back to a place in the squad.

Genoa explained their problem and why they had to loan him out "for one last time."

Dobrovolski shrugged his shoulders and considered the options. France he didn't fancy. Geneva was somewhere closer to Italy, however, and Servette wanted him.

Servette's fans, grown cynical on a decade of broken promises, doubted Dobrovolski's commitment. They expected him to play half-pace and do nothing to jeopardise his prospects of returning fit and fresh to Italy in the summer of 1992.

True to form, Dobrovolski has flitted in and out of matches. But that's his game. He depends on other players to win him the ball. Running and covering back is not what Dobrovolski is about — as team-mates Jean-Michel Aeby and Heinz Hermann soon discovered.

As Aeby says: "We have to work twice as hard to make up for Igor. It was hard at first. We weren't used to it, but his talent is enormous.

"He's worth the effort. He's a man to win you matches, not save them."

Dobrovolski hopes to be given an international stage at Euro '92 to demonstrate his particular talent.

That, he believes, will clinch a return to Genoa to stay, especially now Italian clubs can register extra foreigners.

But first he must turn the European Championship prospects upside down. Him . . . and the CIS.

Spotlight on Thomas ***Hassler***

BY RAY **DELLA PIETRA**

SHOT SHY

If only Voller's pal could finish like Voller

THE cries echo from the bench. The Roma staff want the impish German to shoot.

"Tira! Tira!" yells the coach, Ottavio Bianchi. But a further opportunity is lost, and Thomas Hassler's reluctance to fire gives rise to yet another strained larynx.

Hassler suffered a season of inconsistency since his arrival via Turin. Contrary to expectation, he has failed to produce the performances his expensive transfer from Juventus warrants. On occasions, his positive displays have been overshadowed by his poor strike rate.

He admits he should aim for goal with more regularity. "When I was with Koln I used to shoot as soon as I reached the penalty area," he says. "Now I seem to forget.

Exceeded

"My head wants me to have a go, but my legs don't respond. Yet, I have a good shot with either foot.

"Hassler's move to Juventus from Koln cost a monumental sum just before Italia 90. The £5.5 million fee had been exceeded only by Napoli's acquisition of Diego Maradona and by Roberto Baggio's world record transfer from Fiorentina to Juventus.

Italy proved a happy place for Hassler that summer. His migration to Turin preceded the most gratifying moment in a professional footballer's career, when he played a part in his nation's World Cup triumph.

At club level, his performances were promising, if uninspiring. His assists for the front pairing of Salvatore Schillaci and Pierluigi Casiraghi were plentiful, though his record of one goal in 32 League matches was unsatisfactory.

He paid the ultimate penalty once Giovanni Trapattoni answered Gianni Agnelli's call to take charge of his team after a five-year absence, and consequently he was released.

"Trapattoni didn't want me," he says. "I was very happy in Turin and it was a very important year for me. I believe I played well for Juventus.

"Still, Trapattoni's longing to strengthen a leaky defence ensured that sacrifices were necessary. The appearance of Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter from Bayern Munich meant one overseas player had to go, due to the regulation permitting only three foreigners per team.

The Brazilian sweeper, Julio Cesar, was chosen to stay, and Hassler was the one to go. So he took the journey south to the capital in another £5-million-plus transfer.

Hassler felt optimistic about his future at this point — a natural trait that often enabled him to feel assured amid the most difficult periods of his time in Italy.

Rudi Voller's presence helped him to get accustomed to his new surroundings with greater speed. "Rudi is a great friend and a great champion," he said. "He has helped me enormously.

"Roma have one of the most vociferous followings in Italy and their rapport with club and players is intense and at times volatile, to say the least. The fans instantly took the enigmatic Hassler to their hearts — a gesture he had not quite anticipated.

"They have been exceptional. I always want to play well so as not to disappoint them," he says.

Waivered

The support has not waivered in two difficult years for the club, which began with the death of their president, Dino Viola, in 1990. But sometimes people at the club seem less appreciative of Hassler's efforts.

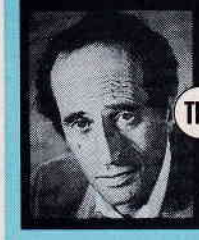
Irrespective of the critics, Roma captain Giuseppe Giannini values his contribution to the side.

"Thomas is a superb player," he says. "He is imaginative and has class. He also plays for the team."

As a result of Hassler's erratic form, his selection for the national team is anything but secure. Since the 1990 World Cup finals, Hassler has been replaced by Andreas Moller. Germans travelling to Sweden for Euro '92 will be hoping that Hassler will find some inspiration. He believes with Voller by his side, Germany can repeat their last European victory — in Rome in 1980.

Voller sums up Hassler's significance to the German cause: "He has had a few negative experiences recently. They must push him to give more. I'm counting on Thomas."

So is the entire nation.



THE Brian Glanville COLUMN

A MAGNIFICENT HEAD, BUT NO BODY

"CI ARRIVERANNO," said Manlio Scopigno, sadly, "ci arriveranno. They'll get there."

We were sitting in the drab basement of a New York hotel in the humid summer of 1967, and not one but two professional leagues had uncertainly got off the ground.

Scopigno, an engaging, ironic fellow, nicknamed "The Philosopher" because he had once, briefly, attended a university course on philosophy in Rome, had brought his splendid Cagliari team to play for the Chicago franchise. They were the New York Skyliners, otherwise Cerro of Montevideo.

I was there writing a weekly column for the *New York Times*, when asked by Jack Kent Cooke, the Canadian ex trumpeter, millionaire, owner of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team, et al, to find him an English team, I'd found him Wolves. They won the title.

"ci arriveranno. They'll get there."

I'd written to Kent Cooke, telling him I'd be working in the States that summer, asking if there were a TV or journalistic role to play, with Wolves there. He never replied.

Back to Scopigno. Alas, the American trip proved fatal to him. There was what might be best described as An Unfortunate Incident, in consequence of which Cagliari sacked him. Gradually, and sadly, he faded from the scene, but he had much to give, and I shall always remember him with affection.

"They'll get there," he said, and in a manner of speaking, they have, at least in so far as getting the 1994 World Cup may be described as doing so.

Unfortunately, it is rather like the phenomenon of a magnificent head without a body. I was recently one of a group of journalists from all over the world, six of them Swiss, who were taken round the future World Cup grounds.

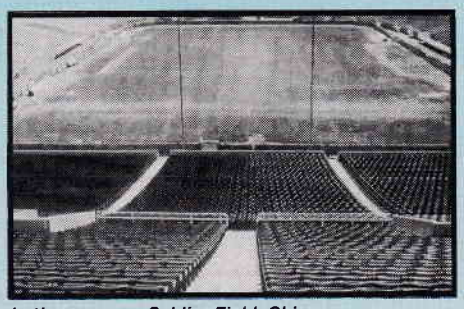
I'm as convinced as ever that the Americans will make a colossal success of running the World Cup and equally convinced that there will be no end product in the shape of a professional league, or a national team of any consequence.

I didn't see all the stadia; only Chicago, Detroit and Dallas. Soldier Field, Chicago, is impressive, with not a scrap of cover.

On then, by strange, stark contrast, to Detroit where, with sublime perversity, the Americans have decided to play World Cup games inside the Silverdome.

The building is impressive enough, but I find the idea of playing soccer indoors repugnant; and if it is meant to be an innovation, it ain't. Judge Roy Hofheinz, on his visits to London, used to hand out pieces of Astroturf from the Houston Astrodome as long ago as 1967.

Except — and here is the deep perversity of it — artificial turf won't be used in the Silverdome in 1994. Real grass will be grown, or two highly qualified professors from the University of Michigan will know the reason why. So there we are: from the sublime to the gorblimey. Or vice versa. In Chicago a stadium with no cover. In Detroit, one covered totally.



In the open . . . Soldier Field, Chicago.

Dallas, thanks to the efforts of such as Blackpool's Ron Griffith, is, unlikely as it seems, a cauldron of soccer.

Ambition

When I was there, the enormously ambitious and unvaryingly successful Dallas Cup youth tournament was about to begin. It was a great, largely unreported, coup for the British game that a very young West Ham side — sponsored by *WORLD SOCCER* — should conquer mighty Tahuichi, of Bolivia, in the final of the major event.

All credit to Tony Carr, Paul Hilton and their lads; and some crumb of consolation to the Hammers for falling out of the First Division.

There is also an immense amount of juvenile activity in Dallas, but no professional team of any standing, since the disappearance of the Dallas Tornado. The millionaire Lamar Hunt, who has had more success with his gridiron franchise, tried very hard for years to breathe life into his soccer club, but Dallas wouldn't respond. Nor does it seem ready to do so, now.

I found Mayor Bartlett a sympathetic and constructive presence, and I was glad to hear him express such optimism and determination about the future of soccer in Dallas, but I'll believe it when I see it.

The irony of it all is that the immense popularity of soccer among the young — even if the US soccer federation's figures are grossly exaggerated — has no spin-off, no end product. Soccer remains what a young intellectual in a magazine once called it; an un-American activity.

Cornering the meat market

THE new league envisaged by Silvio Berlusconi fills me with unbridled horror. As it always has.

La Sua Emittenza, as they jestingly call him in Italy — Eminenza means eminence, emittenza means a broadcast — has been bitterly assailed in his own country, not least by the former captain and president of Milan, Gianni Rivera.

I'm reminded of a 1930s cartoon by Tom Webster in *The Daily Mail*, when Arsenal were spending so much on players. George Allison, their manager, was pictured saying that if he could win the League and Cup, there could still be time for a crack at the Derby and the Boat Race.

I have never liked the idea of a television-European League because it always has seemed quite inorganic. I am not a bit convinced that the punters would pay — for pay TV is what we are talking about — to watch it. Why should they? We are talking about a job lot of teams with great names and large followings which may or may not be doing anything of any consequence if and when such a league is formed.

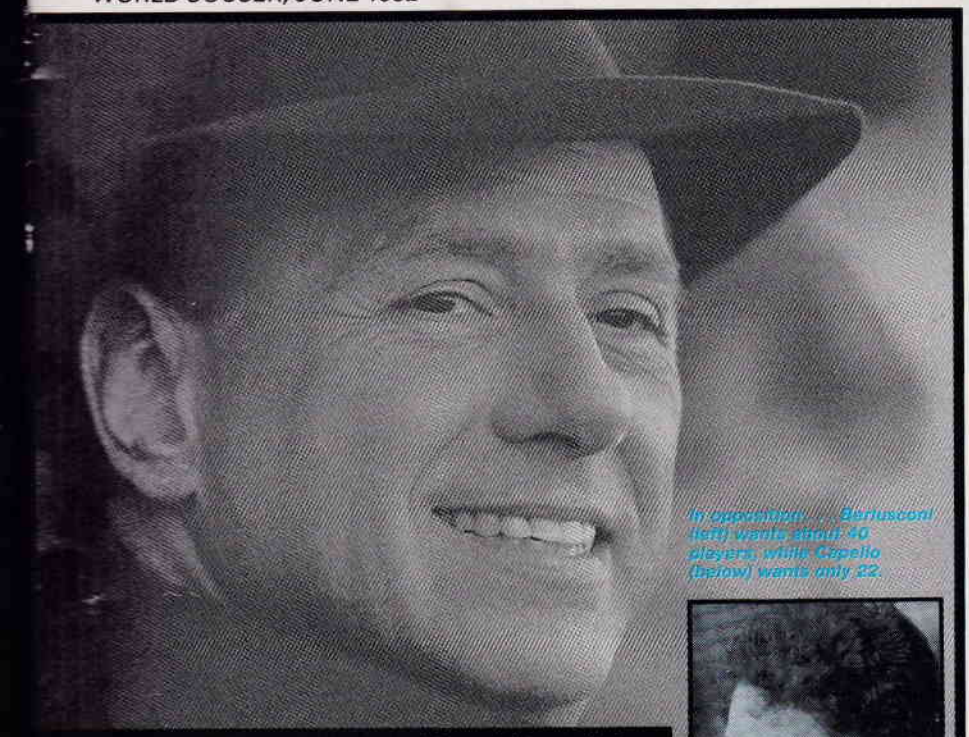
Berlusconi talks blithely about 40 players on the books. His manager, Fabio Capello, wants 22 next season. The difference between these demands and what used to happen years ago in England is that Capello and Berlusconi are talking about players of top quality.

Vision

Berlusconi, with his property, television and publishing interests, can afford to buy so many first-class players, but he is depriving other clubs of them. Already, for next season, Milan have three distinguished Dutchmen, plus Dejan Savicevic, the Red Star Belgrade midfielder, Jean-Pierre Papin, from Marseille and — almost certainly — the gifted Torino outside-right, Gianluigi Lentini.

Berlusconi's vision seems

In contention . . . Wegerle of Blackburn (left) and Drysdale of Watford.



In opposition . . . Berlusconi (left) wants about 40 players, while Capello (below) wants only 22.

nightmare to me, but the meddling interference of the European Community has opened the door to such excesses, now that players from the EC are legally accorded free movement.

Grandiose seems the appropriate word to describe Berlusconi's concept of the future. He made his fortune in junk television, and though it would be unfair to say that such a concept, if realised, would result in junk football, it would greatly impoverish the game outside Milan.

Great footballers, today, are a very rare species. Concentrate them in a handful of clubs, where they might not even have a regular game, and football as a whole would suffer.

Greed is good, *continued*

I'M glad the players got what they wanted out of the television monies from the Premier (Greed is Good) League, but I still feel they missed what might have been their last opportunity for years to tackle a still more important question: that of too much football.

Gary Lineker, whose giant presence will be miserably missed in British football next season, spoke out almost bitterly against this persisting plague, which is one of the reasons why he is going to leave England for Japan.

The Greed is Good League humiliated the Football Association by insisting on a 22-club competition. With hardly a squeak of disapproval, the FA submitted, quietly abandoning their ideal of 18 clubs.

The players in those weeks had the Supergreedy League up against a wall and, for the good of their members, the PFA surely should have joined this cause with that of the money from TV.I find it deliciously amusing that the GIG League should have as chairman Sir John Quinton of Barclays, at the very moment when that mighty institution is in dire difficulties and Sir John himself has gracefully decided to resign.

To devote more time, we are told, not to his family . . . but to the Super League. A somewhat inhibiting prospect.

Function

Although Sir John came out, with sublime hauteur, against the very idea of sitting down at table with the PFA — after all, he told us, the bank unions were never accorded privileges at Barclays — he seemed to hold no ultimate authority in negotiations with Gordon Taylor.

I am sure he has a function in the new League, but I am still a little perplexed about precisely what it is.

In difficulties . . . Sir John Quinton.

MONEY isn't everything: even in modern football. So much we can clearly see from the clumsy efforts of Blackburn Rovers, backed by the millions of the steel magnate, Jack Walker, to return to the First Division.

There was a time when Blackburn had their proud place there; a time which largely pre-dated the abolition of the maximum wage.

That fine team, built on local talent and intelligent buying, included Ronnie Clayton, the right-half and England captain, and Bryan Douglas, the wonderfully elusive and inventive right winger or inside-forward, both products of Ewood Park.

Conversion

The likes of Ally MacLeod and Tom Johnston, two blond Scottish attackers, did not cost huge sums.

Even Derek Dougan, the Irish international centre-forward, in time gave way to Fred Pickering, a youngster converted from full-back, and eventually capped for England.

This season, Blackburn have bought a lot of players, but they haven't got much for their money. Even Roy Wegerle, whose great technical talents I admire, has never added consistency to his virtuosity. I wish Blackburn well, would like to see them back in Division One, but their struggles have in some sense been reassuring.

Now if they'd bought Gullit or Rijkaard or Van Basten . . .

NOT MANY WISE BUYS

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL REPORT FROM KEIR RADNEDGE AT WEMBLEY

Blond bombshell . . . scorer Ronald Koeman leads the Barcelona celebrations.

THE LONGEST JOURNEY

Koeman's classic strike ends Barcelona's Cup quest

SHEER ecstasy. A symphony in three movements. Football's own Ode to Joy.

That was Barcelona's victory over Sampdoria in Wembley's first Champions' Cup Final since Liverpool's defeat of Club Brugge 14 years ago.

This, for all those readers and fans who wondered what all the fuss has been all about each year before a succession of stultifyingly unimpressive matches, is what the European Cup Final is all about.

A compelling contest between two fine teams; a scattering of outstanding individuals; ultimately a magnificent strike for the decision.

All those readers who were with us in October 1960 will know that this is where *WORLD SOCCER* came in . . . poised for Barcelona to win the most prestigious trophy in club football.

Together we have watched and reported the game's most outrageous soap opera: wondered at the vulgarity of so much money wasted over so many years; laughed, incredulous, at the petty bickering which has split boardroom and dressing room; offered two cheers for each victory in the Cup-winners' Cup, Fairs Cup, Spanish Championship and Spanish Cup; knowing, all the while, that the value of even these titles was nothing compared with the one which got away again and again.

In 1961 Benfica beat Barcelona in the Champions' Cup Final in Berne; in 1986 Steaua Bucharest beat them in a penalty shoot-out in Seville.

The 1961 team contained some of the finest individual footballers the world has seen, never mind Europe. Ladislav Kubala, Luis Suarez and Sandor Kocsis are names which echo down history and not merely for their achievements in the famous maroon-and-blue of the flagship of Catalonia.

But the glitter of history had to wait until Wembley. A historic venue for an historic event. And how coolly Barcelona took it.

Referee Aron Schmidhuber had ruled that both teams had to change kit to avoid a colour clash. Thus Barsa played in orange. But they had taken the confident precaution of bringing their maroon-and-blue shirts with them. As reserves and officials fell into each other's arms after the last whistle, so each man pulled on the "real" shirt for the collection of the cup.

Beautiful touch. And not the only one.

Awarded

When referee Schmidhuber awarded the free-kick from which Ronald Koeman thumped the winner, Barsa wanted to bring on Miguel Angel Nadal as midfield substitute for the tiring Juan Guardiola.

Cruyff called from the bench to delay the switch until after the free-kick.

When Koeman's pile-driver crashed through Sampdoria's defence, Cruyff changed his mind. Nadal was pushed back on to the bench and Guardiola was replaced, instead, by Jose Ramon Alexanko . . . so Alexanko, in probably his last service to his club, could lead the way up the steps and carry off the cup.

Barcelona thus became the second Spanish club to win the Champions' Cup (after Real Madrid) and the third club (after Juventus and, also this year, Ajax) to have collected all three European trophies at one time or another.

Koeman himself won the MasterCard Man of the Match award and became only the second player in history to win the Champions' Cup with different clubs, after his success in 1988 with PSV Eindhoven when he also scored, albeit in the penalty shoot-out. The previous double-winner was Miodrag Belodedic, another central defender, who triumphed with Steaua Bucharest against Barcelona in 1986 and then with Red Star Belgrade last year against Marseille.

Cruyff also joined the history-makers.

Only one man previously had captained and then coached Champions' Cup-winners: Miguel Munoz, captain of Real Madrid in 1956 and 1957 and their boss in 1960 and 1966. Cruyff, of course, was a Champions' Cup-winning captain with Ajax Amsterdam 20 years ago.

As well as the second captain-cum-coach he is the third player-cum-coach to win the Champions' Cup: after Munoz and Giovanni Trapattoni, a winning player with Milan and victorious coach with Juventus.

In hindsight, you almost wonder why Sampdoria turned up. At the end their players threw their shirts into the crowd, more in disgust than tribute. It was as if they did not want to keep that change strip any longer than they needed. The Italian fans slipped away similarly, empty-eyed. That may well prove the end to the Sampdoria decade.

President Paolo Mantovani is growing tired; Gianluca Vialli is thinking seriously about pastures new; coach Vujadin Boskov is off to Roma; Brazilian veteran Toninho Cerezo is at the end of his career; by the time you read this Sampdoria may have failed to secure even a UEFA Cup place next term.

One match can make so much difference.

Not that there was much between the teams. Barcelona, predictably, took the game to Sampdoria from the start. They pressed the outgoing Italian champions back into their own half — where Sampdoria were happy to be. They sat comfortably in front of their penalty box with Moreno Mannini using his pace, Pietro Vierchowod his experience and Marco Lanna his intelligence, to protect Gianluca Pagliuca in goal.

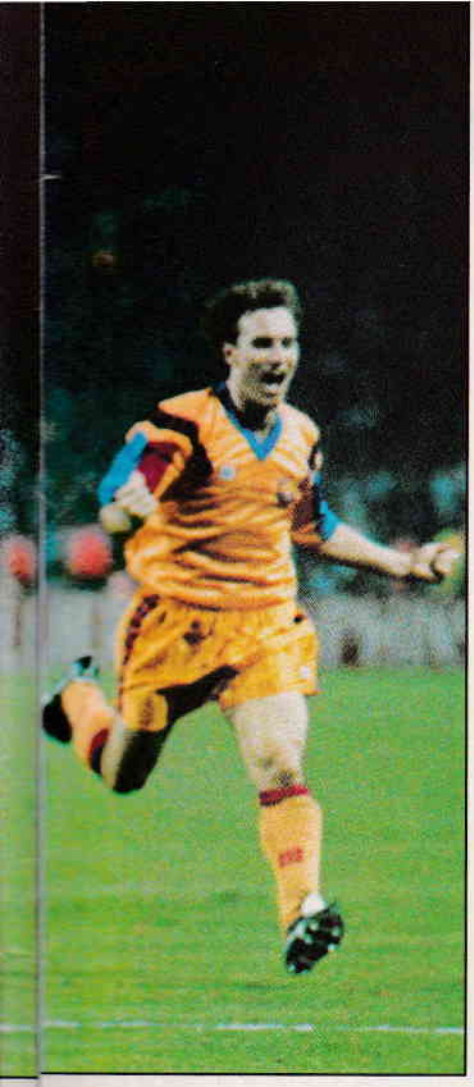
Ensured

In midfield Jose Bakero sat on Cerezo and vice-versa, cancelling each other out; Ivano Bonetti ensured that Eusebio, wide on the Barsa right, never seriously threatened Italian security.

Fausto Pari had a mixed time of it, marking Michael Laudrup. Pari had the better of the early exchanges; Laudrup gained the ascendancy either side of half-time; then Pari regained command in extra-time.

The first half was the first movement of the symphony. The themes were established but not explored in depth.

Barcelona used Koeman's long passes and Guardiola's nimble footwork as their attacking springboard. But the sharpest chances at both ends arrived within 30 seconds of each other. First Lombardo's close-range, angled drive was deflected in



safety by Zubizarreta's right-hand glove; then Hristo Stoichkov, at the other end, produced a "free" header which brought a diving save from Pagliuca.

The tempo changed after the break. It was as if both teams suddenly realised this was the European Cup Final. It was now or never. Win or bust. Stoichkov, gaining ever more space, hit a post. As serious action increased, so the foul count dropped and play began to flow more freely.

Lombardo's pace down the Italian right grew more menacing and Vialli, on the break, missed two gilt-edged chances.

As time went on, the frustration quotient increased. A late, late tackle by Bakero on Cerezo provoked a minor melee which Pagliuca resolved by lifting Bakero bodily out of the fray.

Vanished

In the Barcelona half Vialli niggled away at Ferrer and Guardiola. He looks more and more a Peter Pan of Calcio, a little boy who will not, or cannot, grow up.

That may be his tragedy. It was also one cause of Sampdoria's failure.

So much for the symphony's second movement; extra-time was No 3 — apotheosis.

Initially, Barcelona appeared to be tiring. Ferrer, superb in defence, started feeling his legs. Guardiola started to stiffen up. Laudrup vanished. In the Sampdoria midfield skipper Roberto Mancini kept on running. Barcelona had held the initiative, led the game. No wonder they were tiring first.

Sampdoria coach Boskov saw those tell-tale signs and pursued them.

Off came Vialli, on went the fresh attacking legs of Renato Buso.

To no avail. Barcelona were poised to fulfil their destiny. Eight minutes remained in the second half of extra-time when referee Schmidhuber awarded Barsa a free-kick just outside the Sampdoria penalty box. The award was contentious. Eusebio, Invernizzi and the ball had become enmeshed in a defensive scrum. A drop ball would have been a better decision. But Barcelona did not argue. After all, the position was ideal for a Koeman rocket.

Stoichkov and Bakero stood either side of the ball to tee it up. Tip . . . tap . . . thump. And the ball was flying low to Pagliuca's right hand and inside the post. Had the net not been fixed securely the ball might still be travelling.

Barcelona brought on Alexanko and played keep-ball in the corner. The ghosts of 1961 and 1986 had been exorcised at last.

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL
May 20 — Wembley
Barcelona 1 (Ronald Koeman 110)
Sampdoria 0
After extra-time. HT: 0-0.
90min: 0-0.
Att: 74,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger)
Barcelona: 1 Zubizarreta — **2** Nando, **4** Koeman, **3** Ferrer, **5** Juan Carlos — **11** Eusebio, **6** Bakero, **10** Guardiola (**12** Alexanko, 111min), **9** Laudrup — **7** Salinas (**16** Goikoetxea, 64min), **8** Stoichkov.
Subs not used: **13** Busquets, **15** Beguiristain, **15** Nadal.

Sampdoria: 1 Pagliuca — **6** Lanna — **2** Mannini, **4** Pari, **5** Vierchowod — **7** Lombardo, **8** Toninho Cerezo, **10** Mancini, **3** Katanec, **11** Ivano Bonetti (**14** Invernizzi, 72min) — **9** Vialli (**16** Buso, 100min).
Subs not used: **12** Nuciari, **13** Dario Bonetti, **15** Silas.

MasterCard Man of the Match: Ronald Koeman (Barcelona).

Barcelona: 12 shots (9 on target, 3 off target), 4 corners, 19 fouls committed, 5 offsides.
Sampdoria: 12 shots (3 on target, 9 off target), 6 corners, 29 fouls committed, 10 offsides.

THE TOUCHLINES

● SAMPDORIA coach Vujadin Boskov is likely to be fined by UEFA, along with the club, for failing to turn up with any of his players at the mandatory press conference afterwards.

● ALL CREDIT to the fans in the stadium, particularly those of Barcelona, for creating a magnificent atmosphere.

● NO CREDIT to referee Aron Schmidhuber. He was frequently left stranded, miles from the action. It was his good luck that both teams played a disciplined game and confrontational moments were few and far between.

● UEFA issued, before the game, a statement on the increasing numbers of nations seeking entry to the three club competitions. Basically, everyone is welcome as long as the necessary conditions of peace and proper infrastructure exist. ALL three tournaments next term will need preliminary rounds.

THE QUOTES

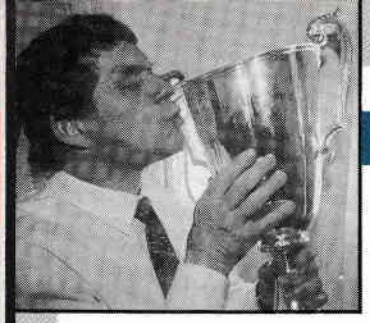
JOHAN CRUYFF ***(Barcelona coach):*** "It's a great night because it's been such a long time coming. But I never had any doubt about the outcome. It was very special to win the European Cup as a player but it's fantastic to achieve it as a coach as well. Koeman is a coach's dream, he's perfect. He can make a goal out of nothing at any time of the game."

RONALD KOEMAN ***(Barcelona):*** "That was the most important goal of my life. I train each day with the goalkeepers so I can do just that. This has been a magical night."

Winners at last . . . Ferrer, Laudrup, Alexanco and Salinas with the trophy.

THE ACTION

0 — Barcelona kick off.
11 — Lanna trips Salinas 25 yards out. Koeman takes a tap from the free-kick and lets fly. Pagliuca, seeing the ball late, punches it out. Fortunately no Barcelona player is in place to punish him.
17 — Sampdoria demonstrate their potential with a lightning raid which ends as Lombardo runs a shot wide.
20 — Lombardo needs attention after being tripped by Ferrer.
22 — Sampdoria force the first corner. Mancini fires it in, Lombardo shoots, Zubizarreta parries and Bakero concedes another corner. Barcelona race away and a Stoichkov header brings a diving save from Pagliuca.
30 — Laudrup feeds Guardiola who bursts forward only to wastefully lift a 20-yard drive high over the bar.
38 — Koeman's angled cross into the penalty box is headed goalward by Bakero but without power and Pagliuca catches easily.
39 — The first yellow card goes to Mannini, as punishment for tripping Laudrup.
40 — Vialli dummies over a short cross but Lombardo is impeded by a Barcelona defender and Zubizarreta fields without difficulty.
Half-time: Barcelona 0, Sampdoria 0
48 — Salinas stumbles and twists through four tackles and gets in a shot which Pagliuca deflects one-handed. Then, on the other side of the penalty box, Pagliuca dives to block a cross-shot from Stoichkov and the rebound from Eusebio bounces up off his body and is cleared.
52 — Stoichkov wins a free-kick just outside the box in what should be an ideal striking position for Koeman. But Stoichkov insists on being involved as well, runs at the defence, loses control and Bakero balloons a shot over the bar.
56 — Stoichkov's pace provokes another trip, earns another free-kick and he needs attention before play continues. Barcelona again waste the free-kick.
59 — Sampdoria waste the best chance of the match. A swift raid out of defence, Pari up to Lombardo, his cross slides behind the Barsa defence but Vialli, reading his mind and the pass, scoops his shot just over the bar.
61 — Barcelona play it the Sampdoria way, on the break. Laudrup sends Stoichkov clear of defence but his shot, defeating Pagliuca, ricochets back off the far post. Stoichkov beats the pitch in frustration.
63 — Barcelona win their first corner, and waste it.
64 — Salinas is substituted by Goikoetxea.
66 — Vierchowod is shown the yellow card for bringing down Laudrup.
67 — Vialli is again a danger on the break. This time his angled shot strikes the scrambling Zubizarreta and is safely gathered in by the Barsa keeper. Then Mancini puts Vialli in again and this time his shot bobbles over Zubizarreta and agonisingly wide of the far post.
69 — Koeman slings in a free-kick from the right and Nando heads just wide of Pagliuca's right-hand post.
72 — Bonetti is substituted by Invernizzi in the Sampdoria midfield.
75 — A late, late tackle by Bakero on Cerezo provokes a minor tussle involving half a dozen players outside the Sampdoria penalty box. Pagliuca takes the heat out of the situation by physically removing Bakero from the scene.
77 — Koeman has his first "clean" strike at a free-kick only for Mannini, bravely, to head it clear.
84 — Vialli is tripped in front of goal, a couple of yards outside the Barsa penalty box. Mancini, trying to lift a golden opportunity over the wall, scoops it over the bar as well. A bad waste.
86 — Koeman's long ball out of defence finds Goikotxea. He wriggles inside and drives for goal only for Pagliuca to beat the ball out with his fists.
90 mins: Barcelona 0, Sampdoria 0.
91 — Sampdoria start in extra-time.
95 — An end-to-end dash by Mannini forces a corner. Mancini's kick confuses Zubizarreta but Mannini, unmarked in the middle of the penalty box, heads too high.
100 — Vialli is substituted by Buso.
104 — Short cross from Juan Carlos on the left, Stoichkov stabs at it and Pagliuca makes a diving save on his line.
Half-extra-time: Barcelona 0, Sampdoria 0.
105 — Barcelona restart.
110 — Barcelona win a contentious free-kick outside the Sampdoria penalty box as Invernizzi traps Eusebio's legs. Stoichkov and Bakero play tip and tap and ***KOEMAN*** thumps the ball beyond Pagliuca's right hand. 1-0 to Barcelona .
111 — Barcelona replace Guardiola with veteran club captain Alexanko.
112 — Stoichkov forces Pagliuca into a flying save at the expense of a corner.
115 — Lombardo drives in a short hard cross and Buso heads wide. Angry Sampdoria claim a corner but the referee insists on a goal kick.
118 — A superb Barsa break. Koeman to Laudrup but Stoichkov takes too long about shooting and Pagliuca blocks for a corner.
Full-extra-time: Barcelona 1, Sampdoria 0.



CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL REPORT FROM RINO LANDA IN LISBON

REHHAGEL HITS THE JACKPOT

May 6 = Estadio do Benfica, Lisbon
Werder Bremen 2
(Klaus Allofs 40, Wynton Rufer 54)
Monaco 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000.
Ref: D'Elia (Ita)
Werder Bremen: Rollman — Wolter (Schaaf 33), Bratseth, Borowka — Bockenfeld, Votava, Neubarth (Kohn 75), Eilts — Bode, Rufer, Allofs. ***Subs not used:*** Klugmann, Legat, Bester.
Monaco: Ettori — Valery (Djorkaeff 61), Sonor, Petit, Mendy, Dib, Gnako, Rui Barros, Weah, Passi, Fofana (Clement 61). ***Subs not used:*** Hugues, Blondeau, Thuram.

OTTO REHHAGEL is not renowned as a gambler. He has turned Werder Bremen into one of the most consistent of German clubs — not, you will appreciate, most successful — by running a tight ship.

No extravagant signings, no tactical innovations, no publicity thunderbolts.

Rehhagel (above) is a man for cornerstones and foundations, for commitment and credibility. He has put that image together over 12 years, all told, on the Weser, and the Cup-winners' Cup appeared the last occasion on which he would change.

Yet he did. And his reward was to see his team collect their first European trophy in their first European final.

Rehhagel's teams generally play with two strikers. He has consolidated in defence and midfield. Using an attacking trio was a gesture of comparative eccentricity. Yet, paradoxically, it may have been the gesture which took Monaco by surprise.

Monaco boss Arsene Wenger, an old friend of Rehhagel, would hardly have expected his rival to break with personal tradition. Yet he did. And two of that striking trio, Allofs and Rufer, responded with the decisive goals.

Veteran Allofs had been expected by we "experts" to begin the match on the bench. Instead there was this 35-year-old, lining up alongside Rufer and the club's leading scorer this season, Marco Bode. How the tactic succeeded!

Destined

Man-of-the-match Allofs (he donated his MasterCard award to the family of a victim of semi-final hooliganism) scored the first goal five minutes before the interval.

He then created the second, early in the second half, for New Zealander Wynton Rufer.

Allofs, capped 56 times by West Germany until injury ruled him out of the 1988 European Championship finals, had thought European club success was destined to be denied him.

Twice he had been a loser — in 1979, in the Cup-winners' Cup, with Fortuna Dusseldorf against Barcelona, then in 1986 with Koln against Real Madrid in the UEFA Cup. This was his first time on the winning side.

Rehhagel, who told Allofs only hours before kick-off that his six-week spell on the sidelines was at an end, explained: "The main advantage Allofs provided was experience, though this was not just victory for one individual, but for the whole team.

"I opted for his experience because he had won the German Cup twice and I felt we needed mature and experienced players. The result showed I was right. Monaco played some attractive football but we deserved to win.

"We waited, we absorbed their pressure and we took the chances. What else can you ask?"

Light rain fell two hours before the kick-off but the match began under clear skies in front of a crowd of 16,000 all but lost in the 130,000-capacity Estadio do Benfica, Europe's biggest soccer stadium.

The gate, such as it was, could hardly have been a surprise. Monaco's average is little over 4,000, while public service and transport strikes in Germany dissuaded Bremen fans from taking the risk of becoming stranded.

Allofs the unlikely hero as Bremen break their duck

Black armbands were the order of the day, plus a minute's silence, in honour of the victims of the Bastia disaster the previous evening. Then Monaco, perhaps to their own surprise, took the early initiative. The French Cup-holders forced three corners in the first five minutes before Bremen hit back to claim three.

Liberian forward George Weah had the first scoring chance in the opening minute, when a back-heel forced a sprawling save out of Bremen keeper Jurgen Rollmann, in for the suspended Oliver Reck.

In the 15th minute Emmanuel Petit floated in a long free-kick from the left, Weah headed back across goal but Marcel Dib's header passed just over.

Weah split the defence with a slippery run in the 34th minute and sent a delicate flick to Rui Barros. But he was off balance, and Rollman was able to push the shot wide.

For much of the first half the two sides looked very much the European final newcomers they were. Youssouf Fofana and Rui Barros contributed some midfield puzzles for the Germans, while Bremen preferred to bypass the midfield altogether and look for their attacking trio with a long-pass tactic vaguely reminiscent of other teams in other places.

A winner at last . . . Klaus Allofs scores Bremen's first goal against Monaco and enjoys his first European triumph (above).

Bremen's few fans had to wait until the 17th minute for their first break. Rufer picked up an angled pass from Allofs and ran on alone into the Monaco area where veteran goalkeeper Jean-Luc Ettori dived to take the ball from his feet.

Nipped

Manfred Bockenfeld almost slipped through in the 22nd minute, but was thwarted by a diving save from 36-year-old Ettori. Fourteen minutes later, on another German break, Bode shot wastefully wide.

Monaco should have heeded the warnings. Instead they were caught dozing when Bremen seized the lead. A high ball from Frank Neubarth found the Monaco defence flat-footed and Allofs nipped in to slip the ball beneath the diving Ettori.

It was a disastrous time for the French to concede a goal, and within ten minutes of the start of the second half Bremen were home and dry. If that first goal had come against the run of play, the second was even more of an upset for Monaco, who were beaten by a classic counter-punch.

Allofs sent a long pass upfield for Rufer to chase. The Monaco defence stood still expecting offside and Ettori was forced to race outside his penalty area to intercept. Rufer stretched a foot to the ball, ran beyond the keeper and tapped it into an empty net as the defence raced back in helpless panic.

Monaco were discovering, as Marseille had last year in the Champions' Cup Final, that the best team on the night do not always carry off the cup.

Dib, Weah and Rui Barros all crafted half-chances but Rufer's goal had left Monaco with too much to do. Gerald Passi was just wide with a spectacular volley but Bremen never looked like conceding even one goal, let alone two or three.

Monaco thus added their name to the list of French losers in European finals — after Reims (1956, 1959), Saint-Etienne (1976) and Marseille (1991) in the Champions' Cup and Bastia (1978) in the UEFA Cup.

Wenger had no excuses. He said: "We started well but didn't develop our game the way we wanted. The goal just before half time gave Bremen a lot of confidence and I thought the second goal came from a mistake by the referee. It certainly made everything safe for Bremen.

"People may say our players were affected by what happened in Bastia. Watching that on television wasn't the best preparation for us. Perhaps we might have played better. But it really has no place in these discussions."

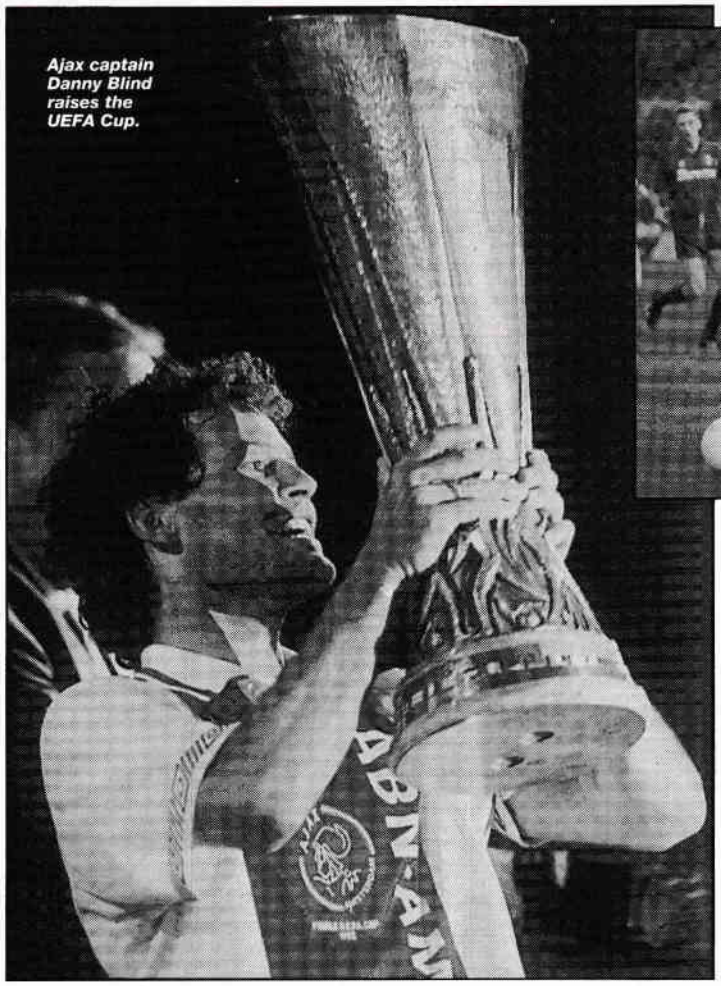
Bremen became the first German side to win the Cup-winners' Cup since Hamburg in 1977 and the first German side to win ANYTHING since Bayer Leverkusen won the UEFA Cup in 1988.

Perhaps German football, for all Bremen's success, does not quite possess the strength in depth we sometimes think.

UEFA CUP FINAL REPORT FROM JONATHAN SHALLARD IN AMSTERDAM

First leg
Delle Alpi, Turin — May 30
Torino 2 (Walter Casagrande 65, 85)
Ajax 2 (Wim Jonk 16, Stefan Pettersson 77 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 70,000.
Ref: Worrall (Eng).
Torino: Marchegiani — Bruno, Annoni, Venturin (Sordo 85), Benedetti, Cravero (Bresciani 80), Scifo, Lentini, Casagrande, Martin Vazquez, Mussi.
Ajax: Menzo — Blind, De Boer, Silooy, Jonk, Winter, Van't Schip, Kreek, Bergkamp, Pettersson, Roy (Groenendijk 85).

Second leg
Amsterdam — May 13
Ajax 0
Torino 0
Att: 42,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug).
Ajax win on away goals: 2-2 agg.
Ajax: Menzo — Blind, Silooy, Jonk, De Boer — Winter, Alflen, Kreek (Vink 80) — Van't Schip, Pettersson, Roy (Van Loen 64).
Torino: Marchegiani — Mussi, Benedetti, Cravero (Sordo 56), Policano, Fusi, Venturin, Martin Vazquez, Scifo (Bresciani 60), Gasagrande, Lentini.


Ajax captain Danny Blind raises the UEFA Cup.

Winter . . . dominated the midfield.

Ajax join the history graduates

Torino are still learning

AJAX Amsterdam stepped into history when they played out a goalless draw at home to Torino to clinch the UEFA Cup on the away goals rule. It was a pragmatic, if disappointing (and violent) end to a tie which had produced so much opening class and excitement in the opening salvo two weeks earlier in Italy.

Victory meant Ajax equalling Juventus as clubs with the honour of having won all three mainstream European trophies: the Champions' Cup, Cup-winners' Cup and UEFA/Fairs' Cup. Along the way the Dutchmen also broken Italy's three-year grip on the cup, won by Internazionale last year, Juventus in 1990 and Napoli in 1989.

Of course, Barcelona were still possibilities to make it a three-some. But that did not stop Ajax fans streaming downtown and swamping the Leidsplein to celebrate. Police made 23 arrests during the game — through one of the most obvious moments of violence went unarrested. That was in the closing minutes when Ajax's Swedish forward, Stefan Pettersson, took the ball away to a corner to waste time and was clattered into the corner flag by the abrasive Roberto Policano.

Robbed

Pettersson was carried away on a stretcher. There could be no condoning Policano's strong-arm tactics. But the time-wasting corner-ball tactic is a nasty little piece of gamesmanship and Pettersson is unlikely to do it again for a long time: the arm fracture thus incurred robbed him of a place at the European Championship finals.

Rough justice? Perhaps. But the right team won, even though Ajax lacked the firepower in Amsterdam of top scorer Dennis Bergkamp, who was at home suffering from flu.

As Ajax's impressive novice coach Louis Van Gaal said: "You could see from this game alone how important Bergkamp is to us. We did lack finishing power. But, tactically and technically we had the edge."

Opposite number Emiliano Mondonico disagreed. He said: "Ajax had all the luck. We lost it in the first leg, really."

Mondonico had promised, before the Turin opener, that Torino would play to win — but without forgetting defence. His words had a hollow ring after 16 minutes when midfielder Wim Jonk was allowed to lope down a channel through the Torino midfield and crack home a drive from 25 yards. The goal stunned the crowd and Ajax, playing compact football, shifting the ball around at the back and in midfield with neat, economical strokes looked a class superior.

Torino showed plenty of spirit. A team weakened by injury and suspensions to Policano and Luca Fusi did their level best to stay with the flitting Dutchmen. But, apart from the predictable early flurry they never seriously threatened Stanley Menzo in the Ajax goal until after half-time.

Menzo's idiosyncratic style of goalkeeping always offered Torino a chink of hope and that was realised early in the second half when the Ajax keeper fluffed a shot from Enzo Scifo and Brazilian striker Walter Casagrande made no mistake from the rebound. It looked a clear case of Ajax paying the penalty for operating in a less-demanding championship. What is not in doubt is that Bergkamp has the potential to succeed not only in Holland, where he was top scorer this past season, but in Italy himself in due course.

His acceleration and youthful craft proved troublesome to Torino all night and when he was fouled in the 18-yard box, Pettersson rattled home the penalty to restore the Dutch advantage.

Casagrande, revealing a talent too often hidden by inconsistency, pulled back another equaliser after more Ajax defensive slackness. But Torino's journey north a fortnight later was not a happy one.

Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo did reveal a preference to stay on with Torino rather than return to his first Italian club, Inter. On the other hand speculation continued about whether the disappointing Spaniard, Martin Vazquez, would stay another year. When they were not discussing the players, a detachment of Torino fans tore one of their inter-continental trains to pieces.

If only their team could have been as destructive out on the pitch in Amsterdam. But they could not. Torino never once controlled the game, even though they had their chances. The return was run from midfield, instead, for Ajax by Aron Winter, whose incisive passing repeatedly pressed Torino deep into their own territory. The best Torino could manage were a couple of long shots from Casagrande and Gianluigi Lentini.

But Ajax had the better half-chances. Midway through the first half the returning Fusi cleared a Pettersson header off the line after a Bryan Roy corner, then Marchegiani made an acrobatic save from Roy.

Three times in all Torino hit the woodwork. First Casagrande headed a Martin Vazquez cross against the bar then, on 67 minutes, a drive from Roberto Mussi was deflected by Danny Blind past Menzo only to bobble against the post. The most desperate moment was shortly before the end when a Casagrande shot cannoned back off the underside of the bar. That was the last straw for Torino and promoted the sudden raising of temperatures which exploded with Policano's savaging of Pettersson.

History and the cup for Ajax; for Torino only a tumble into the European abyss.

Bergkamp . . . missed the second leg.

letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letter World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret tha Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

Lineker . . . 1992 Footballer of the Year.

Europe's loss is Asia's gain

SIR — I was delighted that Gary Lineker was voted England's Footballer Of The Year again. Nobody deserves it more. Despite injuries and his child's illness he has continued to knock in the goals for Spurs and England. What a model professional he is! It is a shame that he is going to Japan.

He will make a great impression, but one cannot help but feel that it is a sheer waste of the man's talent.

I wish Spurs or some other English club had come up with a deal to persuade Lineker to stay.

He would have been a tremendous asset to the new Premier League.

Europe's loss is Asia's gain.

— WILFRED WANG, Penang, West Malaysia.

No Wembley way

SIR — Why are all the major Cup Finals played at Wembley, yet the Women's FA Cup Final is played at an obscure ground in the north? Surely it's time they had a right to play at Wembley. With the right advertising a reasonable gate could be expected.

And why are the FA Trophy and Vase not shown on TV in an edited way by any major company?

— MICHAEL WIGGINS, Reading, Berkshire, England.

Pancev Farce

SIR — Panathinaikos of Greece deserve some recognition from your publication. Don't you think that a club focus would be in order to recognise one of Greece's top football clubs, considering their outstanding performance in the 1991-92 European Champions' Cup?

In the April issue there were reports about the new Macedonian League and Pancev's problems in Athens with the Greek red tape. What a farce! First, the creation of such a league would be an insult to Greece. Second, Pancev was travelling on a passport issued by a country that is not recognised yet.

Your comment "he took his revenge on the pitch" could contribute to fanatisicm and violence in the stadia. Leave politics out of sports!

— CHRIS DOGAS, Marietta, Georgia.

More goals needed

SIR — I have thought of a few ideas that would increase goals without changing the game.

1. Eliminate the offside rule except in the penalty area.
2. Extend the penalty area across the width of the field.
3. Don't allow more than three players in the wall on free-kicks.
4. Use sudden death to end overtime games (1st goal wins).

— KENT NEWMAN, Neptune, N.J. USA

Soviet sadness

SIR — I am writing to express my dismay at the seemingly inevitable end to the Soviet Football League.

The league has produced many brilliant players in the past and it seems a great pity that we will have to say goodbye to this often underrated league. I hope that the new Ukrainian, Russian, Georgian and Byelorussian leagues are as good — but somehow I doubt they will be.

— S. MORRISON, Manchester, England.

Kipiani, Soviet great.

Penalties are spot on

SIR — In this age of incessant and all-powerful television coverage, surely the case for continuing drawn games in a "sudden death" mode is, if not impossible, then certainly impractical.

Players loathe penalty shoot-outs, but there is no other option (replays, with the exception of finals, are not workable in tightly structured tournaments.

Perhaps, to discourage teams playing for the shoot-outs, there could be an advantage in the shoot-out (say, an extra kick) for the team on top in the match (most corners, shots on goal etc).

Alternatively, you could have two attackers against one (or perhaps two) defenders, with a specified time (e.g. 30 seconds) in which to score — this would replace a penalty kick and, importantly for some, it contains a not inconsiderable need for skill.

Penalty shoot-outs are highly exciting for the fans — both those present at the ground, and those watching on television — and aren't the supporters the ones who count without whom the game couldn't survive?

The shoot-outs may be "horribly unfair" to quote your April edition, but for the sake of the fans and television — indubitably the two most important factors in football today — let's keep 'em!

— DAVID CULLEN, West Sussex, England.

Penpals

AMERICAN female, novice fan, would like to learn more about the game — rules, leagues, tournaments. Please share other interests as well. M/F, 25 and up.
— Lindsey Ray, 6605 SW Wisteria Place, Beaverton, Oregon 97005, USA.

PENPALS wanted — must support Juventus, Schillaci and Baggio, write in English.
— Johnny Chan, 91 4th Avenue, Mt Lawley, WA 6050, Australia.

SPANISH brothers, 15 and 12, seek penpals worldwide, fond of Cadiz and Real Madrid.
— Manuel and Eduardo Santander Fernandez-Portillo, c/o Ciudad de Santander 6, 0A 11007 Cadiz, Spain.

CELTIC, Internazionale, Atalanta and Koln fan would like to hear from others around the world.
— Michael Connolly, 7B Derrinraw Road, Portadown, N. Ireland, BT62 IUX.

LIVERPOOL fans wanted, to correspond with Zimbabwean.
— Sibangilizine Sokhosana, 1791 New Magwegwe, PO Magwegwe, Bulawayo.

CANADIAN male, 18, seeks Scottish fans of Rangers to correspond.
— Shawn McMullen, Box 2765, Olds, Alberta.

PENPALS wanted by Arsenal/Liverpool/Napoli/Marseille fan, 20.
— Addison Abekah, c/o Bosomafi, PO Box 1816, Kumasi, Ghana.

SOCCER, athletics and motor sport fan seeks penfriends, m/f, anywhere.
— Nathaniel Banfro, PO Box A501, La, Accra, Ghana.

SOCCER fan, 15, seeks worldwide penpals. All letters answered. Write in English please.
— Robin Baker, 67 Dickens Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2QR, England.

Exchanges

TWO readers, fans of English soccer, want to exchange magazines, books, programmes etc.
— Andrei Korchagin and Sergei Volchkov, ul. Luganskaia d. 7 Kor. 1 Kv. 9, 115541 Moscow.

DUTCH soccer statician wishes to exchange.
— Alex Nieuwland, Grote Kerkstraat 13, 8861 EJ Harlingen, Netherlands.

POSTERS, magazines, statistics for exchange. Please write in English/French.
— Romain Piesset, 4 Boulevard de la Liberte, 59150 Wattrelos, France.

EXCHANGE Brazilian national team statistics and other info.
— D. Woods, 19 Consort Close, Warley, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5XE, England.

ENGLISH fan wants to exchange shirts, scarves and other souvenirs, worldwide. All letters answered. Please write in English.
— Richard Good, 10 Meadow Way, Kinoulton, Notts NG 12 3RE, England.

METAL BADGES wanted for exchange.
— Wladyslaw Maximenko, Miera 82/1-16, LR-226013 Riga, Latvia.

LIVERPOOL fan wants to exchange souvenirs with Italian fans and Celtic fans.
— David MacBryde, 52 Childwall Priory Road, Liverpool, L16 7PE, England.

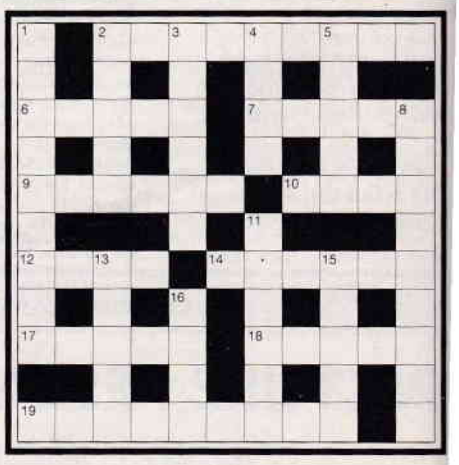
BADGES wanted for exchange.
— Nicolai Stepkin, 3a D. Kozotchenko St. AP57, 254112 Kiev 112, Ukraine.

EASTERN European souvenirs in exchange for those of other countries.
— Magyari Imre, Mimozei Str. 11, 3700 Oradea, Romania.

MILAN supporter will swap replica shirts, scarves, badges and pennants.
— Iacazzi Andrea, Via Brescia 21, 20010 Cornaredo (Mi) Italy.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY
Christine Ansell



CLUES ACROSS

2. Former England winger, holder of Liverpool's club appearance record (9)
6. USA's 1994 World Cup finals role (5)
7. Ex-England full-back prominent among Arsenal's 1971 "double" winners (5)
9. Manager of Sweden's 1990 World Cup campaign (6)
10. Goalscoring star in Wattenscheid's Bundesliga side (4)
12. Lazio's Uruguayan international striker (4)
14. Czech defender in Kaiserslautern's 1991 championship team (6)
17. Cameroon's former Espanol 'keeper (5)
18. Ricardo . . . . . : central defender of Sao Paulo and Brazil (5)
19. Italians from the Giovanni Zini Stadium, relegated from Serie A in '92 (9)

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish administrator serving as UEFA president (9)
2. Julio, Juventus' Brazilian libero (5)
3. Airdrie, West Ham and Scotland custodian of the Sixties (6)
4. Armed service long associated with Steaua Bucharest (4)
5. Rostock club, ultimate Oberliga champions (5)
8. Longserving Torino goalscorer, Giorgio (9)
11. Gornik club from which Warzycha joined Everton (6)
13. England's "Potters", twice UEFA Cup competitors (5)
15. Club from S.E. Italy formerly coached by Zbigniew Boniek (5)
16. Soubriquet attaching to Salvatore Schillaci (4)

MAY SOLUTION

Across: 7. Larne 8. Petry 9. Menotti 10. Lyn 11. Oslo 13. Baia 17. Dib 18. Apollon 20. Dunga 21. Nicol.
Down: 1. Alemao 2. Grun 3. Celta 4. Spain 5. Stelea 6. Lyon 12. Labone 14. Arnold 15. Sabau 16. Young 17. Didi 19. Lech.

American Airlines DALLAS CUP XIII

HAMMERS

DALLAS CUP SUPER KINGS!

USA SCENE
from PAUL **GARDNER**

Speaking . . . USSF supremo Alan Rothenberg at the opening ceremony.

Supporting . . . Scottish fans make their feelings known.

IF the football in 1994 — when Dallas will be staging World Cup games — is as exciting as it was at this year's American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII Super Under-19 final, then World Cup '94 is a guaranteed hit!

OK, OK — so this was only a youth final. But it had all the colour and drama of a full international.

Over 10,000 fans packing the small Highlands Stadium to cheer on the *WORLD SOCCER* sponsored West Ham United of London and Tahuichi of Bolivia.

The English fans singing their raucous and hopelessly tuneless songs, the Bolivians waving their flags and banging their drums.

Europe versus South America. Only a youth final, yes, but how many great finals have you seen lately? This one had one of the West Ham supporters saying: "I've seen English First Division games that I didn't enjoy as much as that."

West Ham — deservedly — came out on top with a 2-1 win. But Tahuichi's ability to keep attacking had kept the result in doubt right down until FIFA referee Ramiz Wright of Brazil signalled the end of the game.

In recent years, English teams have not shone at the Dallas Cup. The last one to win anything was the Royal Navy, which won the U-19 title back in 1981.

Since then, a total blank — which was underlined when, a few hours before West Ham's victory, another English team, Essex Schools, were beaten 5-0 in the Dallas Cup's U-14 final by the BSA Steamers, a team of American boys from Atlanta, Georgia — not exactly an area with a long soccer pedigree.

But West Ham had been looking good — in fact, looking better and better, all week. Their football had pace and skill, and featured an exhilarating combination of short and long passing.

They got the one bit of luck they needed from the Dallas weather. The stifling heat (always an enemy of English teams) of the first three days suddenly gave way to much cooler weather — there was even plenty of rain on the day of the finals.

All three first round games were won — though the one against the Mexicans of Guadalajara proved a bit of a battle, with punches thrown and red cards issued.

Perversely, the two teams had to meet again in the quarter-finals — which proved a relatively tame affair, with West Ham triumphing by 4-0.

Towards the end of the game, Matt Holland, the Hammers' captain was sent off for a relatively minor pushing-and-shoving incident. But when the referee took the player's card, he took the wrong card — that of substitute John Purdie.

West Ham did the decent thing and reported the error — and suffered by having their captain suspended for the semi-final.

But Holland's absence inspired at least one of his team-mates, forward

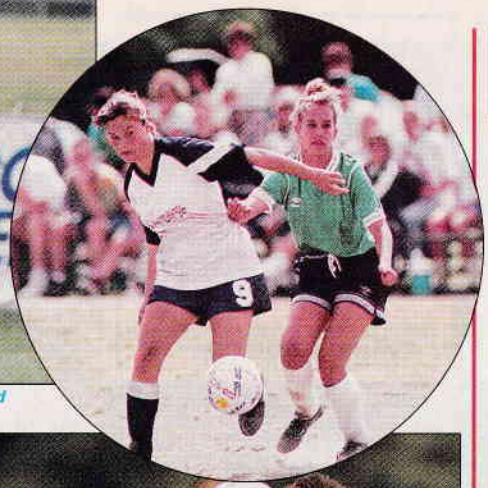
Tangling . . . Mid Wales Celtic (red) versus El Fortin of Venezuela.

Antony Clarke, who scored a hat-trick in a 3-1 win over North Huntington Beach from California — whose goal was the first conceded by West Ham in the tournament.

In the final, West Ham drew first blood, when Holland headed them into the lead after half an hour. Tahuichi equalised right on half-time when a West Ham back pass was slightly misjudged.

Tahuichi forward Jose Pizarro was in like a flash, to sweep the ball away from the goalkeeper, hurdle his body — and then catch up with the ball, right on the goal line, some 10 yards wide of the goal.

From that position, with no angle at



Leaping . . . BSA Steamers, in green, against Essex County (above) and Storm 74 versus Club Nacional of Uruguay, in white (below).

Challenging . . . Dallas D'Feeters, in green, versus Pinner Park Girls FC (top) and Westchester, in red, against Mar Del Plata (above).

Tackling . . . Monterrey, in the stripes, versus Busch in the Under-12 championship (left), and the Under-14 Bramley Select at the opening ceremony (above).

all, he calmly screwed the ball into the Hammer's net.

In the second half, it was West Ham's domination of midfield that decided matters, where their quick, firm tackling repeatedly thwarted Tahuichi's passing build-up.

The winner came with 15 minutes left, when Dean Martin, cutting in from the right, hooked a beautifully measured left-footed shot round goalkeeper Javier Vargas.

It hadn't been easy, but it had been wonderfully exciting for the spectators. After the West Ham team had received their medals, they belted out a strident chorus of their famous theme song "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles" — the only discordant thing they had done all evening.

"I thought it was a brilliant game," said a smiling Matt Holland. "We got a great performance from everyone, they all gave 100 per cent. There were a couple of worrying occasions in the second half when we were under pressure — but we fought back, played some good football, and I thought we deserved to win.

"That's the first time I've played against a South American team — it was very hard. Tahuichi are very fit, they do a lot of running off the ball."

For coach Paul Hilton: "Our endurance has been good over the whole week. At the beginning, playing in that heat — and it was very, very hot! — we tried to play our quicker game, but to slow it down when we had to.

"Possibly our physical game was a bit hard for other teams to take at times — but overall, the referees did a good job.

"But today — this was a great game. Tahuichi are a good team, but we tried to hurry them up a bit. Then we gave them a sloppy goal, but at half-time we felt if we just kept going, we could do it.

"In the end, I though we were the better team, and the lads got what they deserved. A great game — I'll give credit to Tahuichi, they got on with it, whenever there was a foul, the ball was down and on its way immediately.

"It's been a great experience, especially for the younger players, playing against foreign teams, coping with their movement and their technique. It's an excellent tournament.

"Maybe the fields could be better — but all the teams have to contend with the same thing. That's part of the experience for the boys — it'll test their touch a bit!"

Another part of the experience was a huge helping of Dallas hospitality — all the boys stayed with local families.

"The whole organisation has been great," said Hilton, "especially the home stays.

"The Dallas people have been absolutely tremendous. There was bound to be a bit of a culture shock, but right from day one, the boys have felt at home, being welcomed by families, adults telling them to `call us Mum and Dad'."

Matt Holland, who celebrated his 18th birthday in Dallas, the day before the tournament began, left no doubt about his feelings: "It's been fantastic, everyone's been great to us. Dallas? I love it!"

AMERICAN AIRLINES DALLAS CUP XIII RESULTS

Under-19 Super League First Round

La Jolla Nomads (California) v Comets White 74 (Dallas)	1-1
Nacional (Uruguay) v Storm East 74 (Dallas)	1-0
Tempe AZFC (Arizona) v Guadalajara (Mexico)	0-3
West Ham United v USA	3-0

Second Round

Nacional v NSL Selects (Canada)	1-0
Union Sante Fe (Argentina) v North Huntington (California)	4-0
San Pedro FC (California) v Alliance FC (Mississippi)	1-0
FC Delco (Pennsylvania) v Columbia United (Canada)	1-1
La Jolla Nomads v Denver Kickers (Colorado)	3-0
UNAM Pumas (Mexico) v Comets White 74	2-2
Tahuicha (Bolivia) v Capitals (Texas)	3-1
Cerritos Inter (California) v Storm East	1-2

Third Round

San Pedro FC v Capitals	3-1
NSL Selects v Cerritos Inter	2-1
USA v Tempe AZFC	0-1
North Huntington v FC Delco	9-1
West Ham United v Guadalajara	1-0
UNAM Pumas v Denver Kickers	6-0
Tahuichi v Alliance FC	3-0
Union Sante Fe v Columbia United	2-0

Fourth Round

Alliance FC v Capitals	0-2
West Ham United v Tempe AZFC	4-0
USA v Guadalajara	0-3
Nacional v Cerritos Inter	3-0
Union Sante Fe v FC Delco	4-0
North Huntington v Columbia	3-0
Tahuichi v San Pedro	3-0
UNAM Pumas v La Jolla Nomads	1-0
NSL Selects v Storm East 74	2-0
Denver Kickers v Comets White	2-5

Fifth Round

West Ham United v Guadalajara	4-0
Nacional v North Huntington	2-3
Tahuichi v Comets White 74	3-1
Union Sante Fe v UNAM Pumas	3-0

Semi-Finals

West Ham United v North Huntington	3-1
Tahuichi v Union Sante Fe	3-0

Final

Tahuichi v West Ham United	1-2

American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII Other Group Finals

Under-12 Boys

FC Monterrey (Mexico) v Busch Soccer Club (Missouri)	0-3

Under-14 Boys

BSA Steamer's 78 (Georgia) v Essex County Schools (England)	5-0

Under-16 Boys

Chicago Pegasus SC (Illinois) v FC Zbrojovka (Czech.)	0-2

Under-19 Boys

FC Westchester (New York) v Comets 75 (Texas)	2-1

Under-16 Girls

D'Feeters 76 (Texas) v Sting 76 (Texas)	0-3

Under-19 Girls

PV Shamrock 75 (Arizona) v Ft Lowell Sidewinders (Arizona)	4-1

Other British clubs competing in Dallas were:

Knowsley Youth *(Under-19 Boys — Merseyside)*
Royal Navy FA *(Under-19 Boys — Portsmouth)*
Ensign Soccer Club Select *(Under-16 Boys — Derby)*
Surrey Schools *(Under-16 Boys — London)*
Bramley Select *(Under-14 Boys — Bramley)*
New Monkland's Boys Club *(Under-14 Boys — Strathclyde)*
Mid Wales Celtics *(Under-12 Boys — Wales)*
Arsenal Ladies FC *(Under-19 Girls — London)*
Pinner Park Girls FC *(Under-16 Girls — London)*

THE UNDER-19 SUPER LEAGUE FINAL SQUADS

TAHUICHI		WEST HAM UNITED
Javier **VARGAS**	1	Keith **SMALL**
Juan M. **PENA**	2	Michael **BASHAM**
Jose **ESCALANTE**	3	David **WHITE**
Henry **VACA**	4	Marvin **HARRIOTT**
Marcelo **ORTIZ**	5	Kevin **HORLOCK**
Juan Carlos **CHAVEZ**	6	John **PADDINGTON**
David **HURTADO**	7	Tony **COMMERFORD**
Piter **GONZALEZ**	8	Scott **CANHAM**
Raul **MEDEIROS**	9	Matt **HOLLAND**
Jose **PIZARRO**	10	Jason **KNIGHT**
Jaime **MORENO**	11	Danny **WILLIAMSON**
Miguel **SEVERICH**	12	Darren **CURRIE**
Richard **URIONA**	13	Tony **RICHARDS**
Luis **FLORES**	14	Dean **MARTIN**
Luis **SANCHEZ**	15	Paul **WHITMARSH**
Reny **RIBERA**	16	John **LOWE**
Miguel **MERCADO**	17	
Tomas **GUTIERREZ**	18	
Rolando **AGUILERA**	Coach	Paul **HILTON**

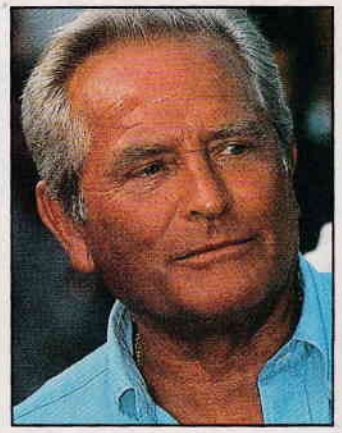
CLUB FOCUS

JUVENTUS

BONI AND TRAP!

BY RAY **DELLA PIETRA**

World Cup hotshot . . . Schillaci came from nowhere to be leading scorer at Italia '90.



Together again . . . Boniperti (above) and Trapattoni (right).

The double act is so vita for La Vecchia Signora

La coppia vincente, as Giampiero Boniperti and Giovanni Trapattoni are affectionately known, realise the difficulties they must overcome in order to put Juventus back on the glory trail.

"The winning couple" were brought back last summer after six largely fruitless years for the club known as La Vecchia Signora — The Old Lady.

Trapattoni's return, after five years at Inter, raised a few eyebrows and perhaps a few hearts fluttered, impossible as it is to dismiss the amazing ten years "Trap" experienced between 1976 and 1986.

"The news will have been received with euphoria by some, with caution by others and with scepticism by the rest," said Trapattoni after resuming the post he felt he had relinquished only momentarily.

"In a footballing sense, I feel more at home in Turin than in Milan."

Suggestions arose, mainly in the Italian media, questioning Trapattoni's desire to coach Juventus for a second time. To begin with, Agnelli offered him a contract worth £200,000 a year more than he grossed with Inter.

Trapattoni also felt he could do no worse than Gigi Maifredi, who had failed to lead Juve to any European place.

"Certain cycles are impossible to repeat," says Trap. "But I have returned to Juventus to demonstrate that I am not a 'warmed-up meal'. I hope to win something again."

Since Trap's departure in 1986, Agnelli has tried desperately but vainly to unearth a coach on a par with the man who had brought unrivalled riches to his club. This possibly led to Boniperti's resignation as president in 1990.

"I was tired," he declared. "I've been able to enjoy a rest. But I can never say no to 'l'avvocato' — the Juve colours represent my entire sporting life."

Boniperti proposed the idea of Trapattoni's return. "He is the best coach in the world," says Boni.

Juventus now look solid again and Trapattoni will try to find the most adept players in order to make his tactical formula work. The inclusion of Jurgen Kohler and that of his compatriot, Stefan Reuter, has certainly helped the defence, highlighting Trap's adoration of German players.

"I admire their fighting spirit and their temperament," he says.

As for Roberto Baggio, Trapattoni feels that the best is to come.

"There aren't any problems because Baggio is young," he said. "When he finds the right balance between his undoubted talent and his mental ability, he could become Juve's leader. Baggio is a sensitive, intelligent young m Trapattoni's favourite side of 1978 names such as Gentile, Bettega, Ca and Scirea, and are remembered wonder and awe the world over.

In Trapattoni's eyes, Scirea — was killed in a road accident scouting for Juve in Poland two y ago — was the perfect professiona

Players

His love for the club was under in the twilight of his playing ca when he said: "With a free trans would have earned a king's ran But there only exists one club suc this."

Boniperti and Trapattoni wan new generation of players to u stand this ideal. Trapattoni says: not enough to say you want to wi championship. You must unders what it takes to achieve it."

Juventus were founded on Nove 1, 1897, on a bench at the corner c

Home sweet home . . . the Stadio Delle Alpi in Turin.

The fans' favourite . . . the late Gaetano Scirea.

Turin streets, Corso Re Umberto and Corso Vittorio Emanuele.

The bench was the traditional meeting place for the students of the Massimo D'Azeglio School. Here, Eugenio Canfari was elected president. As scholars of the classics, the name chosen — Latin for youth — was perhaps appropriate.

For purely economical reasons a plain pink cotton shirt was the first club colour. The black and white striped shirts the players now wear first appeared in 1903. John Savage, an English textile manufacturer took a liking to the team and suggested a "real" kit. The new jerseys arrived from Nottingham, where Savage had commercial interests, and were discards from Notts County.

In 1905, the first of their 22 League titles was captured, but the then president, Swiss trader Alfredo Dick, resigned when accused of under-hand operations, and the best players followed. Dick subsequently formed Torino FC and Juve had nearly 20 years of obscurity, until 1923 brought a major turning point with the arrival of Edoardo Agnelli.

He assumed his role as president in 1924, and provided the base on which to establish Juve's illustrious future. Agnelli demanded the best and enhanced the club's reputation by bringing in quality players, including the celebrated Hungarian goalscorer, Hirzer.

The club won a second title in 1926, and from 1931-35 Juve took five successive championships. The team included World Cup winners Combi, Caligaris and Orsi. Indeed, Vittorio Pozzo's national squad included nine Juventus players.

Juve's championship win in 1935 coincided with Edoardo Agnelli's death in a seaplane accident near Genoa. Incredibly, they were then starved of success until another Agnelli, Gianni, took over in 1947.

The 1940s were dominated by the memorable Torino side, an era tragically brought to an end by the Superga air disaster. Juventus won their eighth championship in 1950, an achievement greatly influenced by the Dane, John Hansen.

The team included a youthful Boniperti, and were coached by an Englishman, Jesse Carver. Boniperti judges the champions of 1950 as the strongest-ever Juventus side. The same team also secured their ninth title two years later.

In 1954, Gianni Agnelli was called upon to run Fiat and gave up his role as Juventus president. His son, Umberto, kept up the family tradition when taking over in 1956, at the age of 21.

The tenth title two years on will be remembered as the first under the magical spell of the John Charles-Omar Sivori attacking partnership.

Boniperti hung up his boots in 1961, not before captaining his men to two successive titles. His retirement, coupled with the exit of Umberto Agnelli, who left to become the head of the Football Federation, had a negative effect. Six barren years followed until a Paraguayan coach, Heriberto Herrera, led them to their 13th title in 1967.

The year 1971 proved to be the start of an inspirational period, 15 years with nine championships and every existing trophy at European and world club level. The instigator was none other than Boniperti, who became club president on July 13 that year.

Two League titles were immediately added to the collection, and the period included players such as Dino Zoff and Roberto Bettega, who were destined to become part of Italian folklore.

Partnership

In 1976 Boniperti decide to place his trust in an up and coming coach — Trapattoni, then 37 and beginning his relationship with "Madama". His name joined that of Boniperti to become regarded as the most productive partnership in the history of Italian soccer.

Their direction brought unparalleled success, an exceptional time filled with triumph upon triumph. Indeed, Italy's World Cup win in 1982 confirmed Juve's supremacy, with the bulk of Enzo Bearzot's heroes coming from the club.

Juventus were then further enriched with the arrival of the French genius, Michel Platini, who orchestrated their conquests of both the European Champions' Cup and the World Club Championship in 1985.

Trapattoni's desire to move ended Juve's dominance. The fact that "La Signora" have not won a title since he went to coach Inter speaks for itself. Rino Marchesi, Dino Zoff and Gigi Maifredi all tried in vain to bring home the ultimate domestic prize.

Gianni Agnelli has now called upon the inimitable duo — Trap as coach, Boni as honorary president — to recapture at least a fraction of past fortunes.

JUVENTUS F.C.

FOUNDED: 1 November 1897.
COLOURS: Black & white stripes/white.
STADIUM: Stadio Delle Alpi, Strada Altessano, 10151, Torino.
HEADQUARTERS: Piazza Crimea 7, 10131, Torino.
PATRON: Ili.
HON. PRESIDENT: Giampiero Boniperti.
PRESIDENT: Vittorio Chiusano.
COACH: Giovanni Trapattoni.

HONOURS:
Championship (22 times): 1905, 1926, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1950, 1952, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1967, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986.
Italian Cup (eight times): 1938, 1942, 1959, 1960, 1965, 1979, 1983, 1990.
Champions' Cup: 1985.
Cup-winners' Cup: 1984.
UEFA Cup: 1978, 1990.
Super Cup: 1984, 1985.
World Club Championship: 1985.

THE COACH:

GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI
Aged 53 (Born 17/03/39)
Renowned as one of the top coaches in world football. Trapattoni was born in Cusano Milanino and spent most of his playing career nearby, with Milan, making 274 League appearances. He represented his country on 17 occasions, scoring one goal.

Trap began coaching at the age of 34, earlier than expected, when he took over from Cesare Maldini at Milan. His arrival at Juventus in 1976 brought a League title in his first season, and in ten years he won everything in sight, an achievement that has not been equalled anywhere.

Trapattoni left Turin in 1986 to return to the city of Milan, taking charge of Inter. A successful five-year stint ended in the summer of 1991, when he was enticed back to coach Juve for the second time.

THE PLAYERS

STEFANO TACCONI
Goalkeeper
Aged 34 (Born 13/05/57)
Veteran goalkeeper who succeeded Dino Zoff in 1983. He left Avellino to join Juventus, his seventh club. Has represented Italy on three occasions.

ANGELO PERUZZI
Goalkeeper
Aged 22 (Born 16/02/70)
Peruzzi is an international of the future, although he was suspended for a year after failing a dope test. During this time he was signed by Juve. Has been capped at Under-21 level.

FABIO MARCHIORO
Goalkeeper
Aged 24 (Born 01/04/68)
Reserve 'keeper who has yet to play in the first team. He was transferred from L.R. Vicenza in the summer of 1991.

MASSIMO CARRERA
Defender
Aged 27 (Born 22/04/64)
A solid marker on the verge of international recognition. Arrived from Bari for £900,000 at the end of last season.

LUIGI DE AGOSTINI
Defender
Aged 30
(Born 07/04/61)
Juventus paid £3 million to Verona for him in 1987. An outstanding defender who has over 20 international caps.

JULIO CESAR SILVA
Defender
Aged 29
(Born 08/03/63)
Bargain buy of the nineties thus far. Juve paid a meagre £100,000 to French club Montpelier, in July 1990. This elegant Brazilian centre-back played in the Mexico World Cup of '86. Employed by Trapattoni as a sweeper.

JURGEN KOHLER
Defender
Aged 26
(Born 06/10/65)
A World Cup-winner with Germany in 1990, and rated by many as the best centre-back in the world. Juventus paid Bayern Munich £4 million for him at the end of the 1990-91 season.

GIANLUCA LUPPI
Defender
Aged 25 (Born 23/08/66)
Versatile defender signed from Bologna for £2 million in July 1990. Has failed to retain his first-team place this term due to the arrivals of Carrera and Kohler.

ROBERTO GALIA
Defender/Midfield
Aged 29 (Born 16/02/63)
Now in his fourth season after signing from Verona. Emloyed mainly in midfield, but often covers in defensive positions.

STEFAN REUTER
Defender/Midfield
Aged 25 (Born 16/10/66)
Another member of the German World Cup-winners. Left Bayern Munich, along with Kohler, in a deal worth £3 million.

ANGELO ALESSIO
Midfield
Aged 26 (Born 29/04/65)
Dependable right-sided midfielder. In and out of the first team since being transferred from Avellino.

ANTONIO CONTE
Midfield
Aged 21(Born 02/08/70)
Juve's most recent acquisition, at a cost of £3 million from Second Division Lecce. Promising ballwinner who made his League debut at sixteen.

EUGENIO CORINI
Midfield
Aged 21 (Born 30/07/70)
Member of a dying breed — a natural playmaker — but unable to maintain a regular place under Trapattoni. Arrived from Brescia in 1990. Captain of the Italian Under-21 team.

GIANCARLO MAROCCHI
Midfield
Aged 26 (Born 04/07/65)
International who has been a fixture for Juve since his transfer from Bologna in 1987.

ROBERTO BAGGIO
Midfield/Forward
Aged 25
(Born 18/02/67)
The 12 million dollar man. Baggio (left) has yet to burst into flames since his controversial arrival from Fiorentina two seasons ago, yet he remains Juve's greatest hope for success. He began his career with L.R. Vicenza, the club who launched Paolo Rossi.

PIERLUIGI CASIRAGHI
Forward
Aged 23
(Born 04/03/69)
A talented and exciting prospect. Signed from Third Division Monza in 1989 and has now broken through to the full international team.

PAOLO DI CANIO
Forward
Aged 23 (Born 09/07/68)
Juventus paid £3.5 million to Lazio for the fiery winger in the summer of 1990. A skilful player who has not fulfilled his undoubted potential up to now.

SALVATORE SCHILLACI
Forward
Aged 27 (Born 01/12/64)
Shot to fame in the 1989/90 season, when he was transformed from an unknown Second Division player to a World Cup hero. "Toto" joined Juventus from Sicilian club Messina and promptly became the team's leading scorer. He netted six times in Italia 90, earning the Golden Ball as World Cup top scorer.

The KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY

EDITOR

Germany to win despite Matthaus blow

The 1992 European Championship beckons us. The prospect is an exciting one.

After all, this is the event which produces a consistently higher quality of national team football than any other.

The World Cup is an amalgam of the good, the bad and the fatigued. With 24 teams involved, how can it be anything else?

The South American championship, the Copa America, has a long way to go to recapture the prestige abandoned long ago.

Technique

The African Nations' Cup is not on the same wavelength in terms of tactics or technique.

Quality sides will contest Euro '92 — for all their assorted problems.

Yugoslavia and the CIS are weakened by their domestic difficulties; England by an enforced selection lottery and the absence of Paul Gascoigne; France play under the horrific shadow of the Bastia disaster; Germany without World Cup-winning driving force Lothar Matthaus; Scotland without Gordon Strachan's experience; Holland line up a team changed only, in the wrong direction, by age; Sweden have no modern pedigree to inject confidence.

But no side ever goes into a major event without some local difficulty.

True quality is demonstrated not only in overall success but in forgetting the orginal obstacles.

If you look at the history of the game and had to bet, I believe you would put your money on Germany as the team best able to make do and mend.

My reservation about the Germans has less to do with the absence of Matthaus, more to do with the tactical judgments of boss Berti Vogts. Against Wales in Cardiff last year he was over-defensive; against Italy in Turin this spring he cast his midfield net too thin. Perhaps the absence of Matthaus will, conversely, concentrate his mind on sealing the gaps.

I expect Holland to qualify behind Germany in Group 2, just as I expect France to lead England into the semi-finals out of Group 1. Despite the presence of £10million Jean-Pierre Papin I wonder, however, whether France have the all-encompassing ruthless streak to regain the Henri Delaunay trophy they first seized in Paris in 1984.

The Final? Germany v Holland with Germany preventing Holland from becoming the first team to defend, successfully, the European crown.

Now, there's an invitation for Graham Taylor, Andy Roxburgh, Tommy Svensson, Ivica Osim and Anatoli Bishovets to prove me wildly wrong.

After all, as I suggested above, they have the players to do just that!

Injury trouble . . . Matthaus misses the European Championship finals.

SCOTLAND JOIN THE JET SET

SCOTLAND have joined the American Airlines club and country class.

American will fly Scotland around — and, one assumes, pay them for the privilege — up to the 1994 World Cup finals.

I admire American's get-up-and-go.

England signed up some time back.

Strange that British Airways weren't interested. Perhaps they feel football business is beneath them. But American's sponsorships aren't about football, they're about business, aren't they?

Turning agents into honest men

Double trouble . . . Yanez mistakenly signed for two clubs at the same time.

HONESTY is about to become the name of the transfer game. Agents are to legalised.

After FIFA's summer congress you can forget all the double-speak.

No more advisers; no more lawyers; no more representatives, consultants, accountants, cousins, friends. The term agent is to be legitimised.

Current regulations forbid players engaging outside assistance in their contract negotiations. Considering the multi-million-dollar complexities of the game, that's a nonsense.

A player's talent is in kicking a football; it is only right that his business interests should be protected by experts in their own right. And they have been. The truth of the matter is that national and international federations have, for years, turned a blind eye to agents' influence in the transfer markets for both players and coaches.

The only occasions on which Nelson had to put his glass to his good eye came on those rare occasions when a dispute arose. Usually it was when a player was found to have signed for two clubs simultaneously and the clubs could not agree a settlement.

Scotland's Gordon Strachan and Chile's Patricio Yanez are among the more famous players who have been victims of such confusion.

FIFA and/or UEFA always had to, reluctantly, ajudicate such matters. Now the world governing body's legal eagles are framing proposals to legalise agents. FIFA would open a formal register of approved agents.

Any player who did not use, at the least, a registered agent, would run the risk of a lengthy suspension.

But, how will FIFA police the new deal? And how will players deceived into business with a cowboy, prove their own good faith? Time will tell.

WONDERFUL SUNDERLAND

SUNDERLAND'S commitment to football as family entertainment brought them a £30,000 bonus shortly before their FA Cup final against Liverpool.

They collected £15,000 as top Second Division club, according to votes cast by fans, and the same amount again when a judging panel decided that they had the best record of all four divisional winners.

Aston Villa, Brentford and Walsall won their respective sections.

The awards are sponsored by the Jewson building materials company and *The People*, and are likely to become an annual event.

Revolution around the corner

EUROPEAN football will have been through a revolution by the time England host the 1996 European Championship finals.

By the time the qualifiers begin, Europe will have more than 40 member football nations.

The CIS will disappear as soon as this summer's finals end. It will be replaced initially by Russia, Ukraine and Georgia; later Byelorussia, Moldavia and several more of the orphaned Soviet republics will follow them into the football main-stream. The prerequisite concerns not so much these new nations' football ambitions as their administrative arrangements.

The letters and faxes in Cyrillic script cut no ice in Switzerland. UEFA (and FIFA) do business in English, French, German and Spanish!

Yugoslavia may remain as a soccer state name but the "old" State of the Southern Slavs has gone. The new Yugoslavia encompasses only Serbia and Montenegro. The European football map of 1996 will include Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

At that rate, UEFA could be up to 50 members by the year 2000. And that would mean a whole new ball game within FIFA, with a one-member-one-vote system which the Africans have wielded successfully to their advantage. A backlash may follow.

France still in the driving seat

THE NEXT edition of *WORLD SOCCER* will be a week later than usual so that we can bring you a full report on the Euro '92 finals.

That means FIFA may well have voted on the 1998 World Cup hosts by the time *we* next reach you.

FIFA's congress is set in Switzerland at the start of July. The 1998 vote falls due on July 2. France remain favourites, despite the Bastia disaster. Morocco are the only serious rivals.

As for Switzerland's candidacy, that collapsed along with the notorious temporary grandstand in Corsica. The Swiss had planned to use temporary stands in a format which they considered suitable for any Third World countries with ambitions to host a World Cup.

In the wake of Bastia it's worth asking just how many countries can now be seriously considered as prospective World Cup hosts. I'd say about a dozen only — Japan, South Korea and China; Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and the US; France, Germany, Italy, Spain and England.

Boot for the Golden boot?

WHO WINS the Golden Boot this season as Europe's top scorer remains open to doubt. It's not a question of Rangers' Ally McCoist (left) or Boavista's Ricky Owubokiri, more an impasse over whether the award still exists.

Long-term sponsors adidas and the award's principal promoters, Paris magazine *France Football*, can't agree a new "realistic" formula to reward quality players and outlaw the cheats.

SKY SERVE UP DISH OF THE DAY

THE £304 million deal which lifts the Premier League's first five seasons on to the screens of BBC and Sky drew contrasting reactions from the media, depending on which side of the bread their interests were buttered.

The sum is incredible but reflects merely the free market ethos so revered in the present political climate.

Supporters' organisations squealed in protest because Sky will, regularly, be taking out a match for live transmission on Mondays, a factor which might, one thought, have produced a tough salvo from the PFA as well.

On balance, though, the deal seems reasonable. I didn't like the unpredictability of ITV's live Sunday coverage; Match of the Day will be welcomed back on BBC to enliven dire Saturday evening TV schedules; finally, the fact that only 3 million Sky satellite dishes have been sold means that fans may return to the stadia and watch "real" live football. Surely that can't be bad?

ONE LAST MASTERCARD CHANCE

AT THE Euro '92 draw in January, sponsors MasterCard launched a competition for journalists. They were invited to name an All-time European Championship team.

MasterCard also agreed to supply prizes for *WORLD SOCCER* readers whose nominated team comes closest to the journalists' vote.

The MasterCard team will be revealed on the eve of the European Championship Final in Gothenburg. That's when we'll be checking your entries, too.

If you haven't submitted an entry, it's not too late. We're looking for an All-time European Championship XI, in 4-4-2 formation.

Send your entries ON A POSTCARD, to: **MasterCard Competition, World Soccer Diary, World Soccer, 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.**

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Together with EUROSPORT we are offering this tremendous prize. If you know the answers to these three questions, phone our hotline number before the closing date on Monday 8th June, 1992. You will be asked to leave a phone number so EUROSPORT can contact our winner to arrange installation as soon as possible to ensure he or she doesn't miss too much of the action from Sweden.

Our number is: 0891 311 164

Calls cost 36p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times.

Questions

1. EUROSPORT kick-off their live coverage of the Championship with Sweden v France in Stockholm. Before that they are showing highlights of The Road To EURO 92. Along that long road England drew 1-1 with the Republic of Ireland at Wembley. Can you name the goalscorers?
2. What was the tournament originally called?
3. What is the highest position England have achieved in the tournament . . . and in which year?

Full schedule for the European Championship on EUROSPORT can be found on page 40.

BRAGANTINO

Right . . . Gil Baiano.

Below . . . Bragantino pose for pictures before the kick-off.

Bottom . . . Mauro Silva clashes with Paulo Nunes of Flamengo.

SERTANEJO STYLE

SAO PAULO'S BEST PUT SUCCESS TO MUSIC

BY BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

HEAD OUT of the grey, sprawling, choking city of Sao Paulo and you will find a Brazil that few people know about.

Instead of the stereotyped image of rain forests, carnival and samba, the interior of Sao Paulo State is an area covered with vast plantations of orange trees, grain and soya and where rodeos — not carnival — are a favourite pastime.

The local music, sertanejo, bears more resemblance to American country than to lambada and has now been exported to the rest of Brazil, where it is played endlessly on the radio.

The interior of Sao Paulo State is one of the country's most dynamic and prosperous regions, and a place where professional football clubs are flourishing as well.

While the big city clubs of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo city struggle to make ends meet, those from Sao Paulo State receive substantial backing from local commerce, industry and politicians.

As a result, they can afford to give their players perks — cars, flats and the like — which are a rarity at the big clubs.

The interior first made headlines in 1986 when Internacional, from the orange-growing city of Limeira, won the Sao Palo Championship. Sao Jose went close to emulating them three years later, when they lost to Sao Paulo FC after beating Corinthians in the semi-final.

Then, in 1990, for the first time, the final was disputed by two teams from the interior of the state — Bragantino and Novorizontino.

Bragantino won, and have become the region's flag-bearers, establishing themselves among Brazil's elite.

Last year they reached the final of the Brazilian championship, losing to Sao Paulo in the final. This year they are again in contention for the title.

For most of the club's history, Bragantino's supporters have had as much to celebrate as the followers of Luxembourg or Malta. The club, based in the town of Braganca Paulista 50 miles from Sao Paulo, were founded in 1928 but until the past five years their only achievement was to win the Sao Paulo Second Division in 1965.

The club's fortunes changed with the arrival of the Chedid family in the 1980's.

Jesus Chedid, the president, his brother Nabi, the owner, and Nabi's son, Marco Antonio, executive director, poured money into the club, and the investments began to be repaid in 1988, when Bragantino again won Sao Paulo's Second Division title.

A year later, Bragantino pulled off the amazing feat of winning the Brazilian Second Division a competition which in that year was disputed by 96 clubs. Bragantino also reached the semi-finals of the Sao Paulo championship, losing to Sao Paulo.

By this time, manager Vanderlei Luxemburgo was forming a squad whose players included Mazinho, now playing for Bayern Munich, and Mauro Silva, now a regular international.

In 1990, Bragantino won their first major trophy, when they beat Novorizotino over two legs to clinch the Sao Paulo Championship.

In the same year, their debut in the national First Division, they reached the quarter-final of the knockout stage before losing to Bahia, 4-3 on aggregate.

At the start of 1991 Luxemburgo left for Flamengo, to be replaced by Carlos Alberto Parreira, but the team proved that the previous year's success was no fluke.

After finishing in the top four of the Brazilian Championship to qualify for the semi-final play-offs, they beat

THE MANAGER

CANDINHO: Took over at the start of the year when Carlos Alberto Parreira left to take charge of Brazil. Previously managed a Salvador club — Bahia.

THE PLAYERS

MARCELO Martelotti Goalkeeper. Born 18.12.68. Aged 23. Came from Taubate, a minor club in Sao Paulo State. Much improved this season.

GABRIEL da Conceicao. Goalkeeper. Born 04.06.67. Aged 24. Reserve to Marcelo.

CARLOS AUGUSTO da Silva. Defender. Born 27.11.59. Aged 32. Reserve defender bought from Vasco da Gama last year.

Marco Aurelio AYUPE. Right-back. Born 05.04.69. Aged 23. Usually deputy to Gil Baiano since being bought from Vasco da Gama last year.

BIRO BIRO (Gilberto Ribeiro de Carvelho). Left-back. Born 29.06.64. Aged 27. Robust defender who began his career with Santos.

GIL BAIANO (Jose Gildasio Pereira de Matos). Right-back. Born 03.11.66. Aged 25. Bought from Guarani three years ago. Scored the decisive goal in the 1990 Sao Paulo final against Novorizontino. Played six times for Brazil during the Falcao days but has been displaced by Vasco's Luis Carlos Winck.

Antonio Carlos Ribeiro JUNIOR. Defender. Born 08.02.68. Aged 24. Not to be confused with the veteran 1982 World Cup survivor. Tall defender, good in the air. Began his career with Guarani.

Antonio NEI Pandolfo. Defender. Born 10.07.61. Aged 30. Forms the backbone of a solid defence with Junior. Another who came from Guarani.

DONIZETE Francisco de Oliveira. Midfield. Born 21.02.68. Aged 24. Hard-tackling, hot-tempered but skilful player who joined Bragantino at the start of the year, from Gremio. Started his career with the Rio de Janeiro club Fluminense. Played five times for Brazil during the Falcao reign.

JOAO SANTOS (Joao dos Santos Ferreira). Midfield. Born 23.01.66. Aged 26. Good creative player bought from Fluminense two years ago.

MAURO SILVA (Mauro da Silva). Midfield. Born 12.01.68. Aged 24. Another player who began with Guarani. Strong, combining hard tackling with creativity. Won his first cap against Argentina in March last year, now a regular in the national squad.

SILVIO Cesar Ferreira. Forward. Born 06.03.70. Aged 22. Bragantino's main scorer. Has played three times for Brazil but has failed to reproduce his club form ay international level.

MARCO AURELIO Zappellari. Forward. Born 16.06.66. Aged 25. Returned to the club this year after 12 months with Ponte Preta. Mostly confined to the reserves.

TIBA (Arioni Ferreira Guedes). Forward. Born 23.09.68. Aged 23. Returned to Bragantino, where he began his career, this season after a two-year absence during which he went to Vasco da Gama and then Guarani.

Fluminense 1-0 in the Maracana to reach the final for the first time.

There, up against Tele Santana's Sao Paulo, Bragantino began with the advantage of needing only to draw over the two-legged tie to win the Championship, having the better previous record.

That meant a win in the first leg would have been enough to take the trophy, and if they had taken their first-half chances, Bragantino could have won the competition there and then. Sao Paulo's Ricardo Rocha made two clearances off the line and Alberto hit a post with a 25-yard shot.

Then a Sao Paulo goal at the start of the second half turned the tie. Santana's team held out for a 1-0 win, and in the second leg got the 0-0 draw they needed to take the trophy.

This year, under Candinho, Bragantino are again in contention for the title. At press time, they were third in the Championship with eight wins and four draws from 15 matches.

Bragantino's main asset is their un-Brazilian stability. Luxemburgo was in charge for nearly two years (six months is considered good going in Brazil) before he was lured away by Flamengo. Parreira, who placed him, left only to take charge of the national team.

Similarly many of the current crop of players have been at the club since the Second Division days — goalkeeper Marcelo, defenders Junior, Nei and Biro Biro, and forward Silvio, among them. They have little reason, apart from possibly a contract with a foreign club, for wanting to go anywhere else.

In addition to the perks, salaries are higher than with many of the bigger clubs, and they are given a warm reception wherever they go in the town.

A lot of clubs in Brazil could learn from Bragantino.

BEBETO IS BACK IN BUSINESS

VASCO DA GAMA striker Bebeto is finally beginning to repay the money the club invested in him — as the crowd at the England versus Brazil match in May will appreciate.

Vasco splashed out two million dollars on the flyweight forward in 1989 and since then have been paying him one of the highest salaries in Brazilian football.

During that time, the club's directors watched in frustration and despair as Bebeto, plagued by injuries, consistently failed to reproduce his best form.

In the past six months, however, Bebeto has found his former touch, with 12 goals in 13 games making him top scorer in the Brazilian championship. And his impressive acceptance of his one chance at Wembley confirmed his place among the game's top finishers.

Less than one year ago, Bebeto's career seemed to have reached the point of no return. He was called up for the South American championship by the then Brazil manager, Paulo Roberto Falcao, and appeared about to rescue a career rapidly being destroyed by a combination of injuries and his own temperament.

Instead, he walked out on the squad in a huff before the tournament had started, and launched a bitter personal attack on Falcao. Apparently he had thrown away his last opportunity.

Largely

Then Falcao was sacked, to be replaced by Carlos Alberto Parreira, who has been prepared to forget the walkout.

Now Bebeto has won the battle against injury, and his performances have been largely responsible for the revitalisation of Vasco after last year's pathetic displays, when they failed to reach the last stages of either the Brazilian or the Rio de Janeiro championships.

Vasco's results include a 4-2 win over arch-rivals Flamengo, with Bebeto scoring two goals, and a 2-1 win over Botafogo, with Beteto scoring the winner. Both matches were played in front of more than 90,000 at the Maracana.

Botafogo recovered from a shaky period, which included a 4-2 home defeat by Corinthians, despite an ongoing feud between Gil, the manager, and Renato Portaluppi, the right-winger.

Renato kept upsetting Gil with his inconsistent performances while Gil kept upsetting Renato by substituting him. The match against Vasco da Gama was symbolic of Renato's season and, indeed, his career.

On form again . . . Bebeto in opposition to England's Walker at Wembley.

Renato was greeted by a resounding chorus of boos from the Vasco end of the stadium. Undeterred, probably wound up by the reception, he began the match in irrepressible form, tormenting the defence, winning a penalty in the fifth minute (missed by Chicao), heading Botafogo into the lead in the 15th minute, and having a further penalty claim turned down five minutes later.

But, in typically exasperating style, he then disappeared from the action, was booked for arguing with the referee, missed two chances to score again, was substituted, and left the pitch shaking his head.

Virtually

Renato has contributed to Botafogo's successful run, but Valdeir, Dias and goalscorer Chicao have been just as important.

Vasco and Botafogo needed two points each to progress into the semi-finals, for which the top eight teams from the first stage qualify (the 20 teams play each other once in the first stage).

Bragantino and Internacional, third and fourth respectively also were virtually certain to qualify.

Internacional were hugely indebted to veteran Paraguayan goalkeeper Robeto "The Cat" Fernandez, remembered from the 1986 World Cup.

He saved a penalty, which resulted in Hugo Sanchez effigies being burned in the streets of Mexico City.

Time and again Fernandez kept the Porto Alegre team in matches they should have lost with the acrobatic saves which gave him his nickname.

BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

PACHON OUT AFTER SIX GAMES

ONLY six weeks had passed before Colombia's first coaching casualty of the season, rapidly followed by two more. The changes at Millonarios, Pereira and Quindio will not be the last.

WORLD SOCCER **reported last month that the Millonarios coach, Moises Pachon, was in trouble after four games. He lasted only two more before the board decided that he had become surplus to requirements.**

Things came to a head after a 1-0 home defeat by Deportivo Cali, their first victory in Bogota against Millos in almost a decade — Pachon was a Cali player on that day. With player confidence and fan support seemingly at its lowest ebb, Pachon was ousted the following day.

After a semi-serious overturn to Francisco Maturana, recently cut free by Valladolid, Millonarios turned to an old boy: Miguel Angel Prince, a Millos stalwart from 1980 to 1988, later the reserve-team coach.

The 34-year-old Prince, capped 20 times by Colombia as a central defender, started with a creditable draw against Junior Barranquilla and a win over Nacional.

The other departures were those of Oscar Quintabani, Pereira's Argentine coach, and Ruben Flotta, who had been at Quindio for only seven games.

Served

Pereira, bottom of the table in 1991, contracted Eduardo Retat, who served as coach at Millonarios last year. Flotta's replacement, Alvaro Gomez, is in his second spell with Quindio, also having coached Venezuelan side ULA Merida.

Diego Umana is another coach feeling the wrath of his supporters. America Cali's fans were particularly dismayed at being on the sharp end of the season's most amazing result, a 2-0 defeat at home to Real Cartagena.

This is unlikely to have any lasting bearing on the respective struggles at opposite ends of the table, but America had been unbeaten at home for 34 games, and put out a side comprising 11 internationals. Cartagena, previously Sporting Barranquilla, had not managed a win outside Barranquilla since September 1988.

Perhaps it was just as well that America finally sealed the signing of Colombian international midfielder Leonel Alvarez, just in time for the second round of the Copa Libertadores against Universidad Catolica in Chile.

America also have had a shake-up off the field, with the departure of president Juan Jose Bellini, who has succeeded Leon Londono as president of the Colombian FA.

KEITH **SMITH**

Its ours . . . Colo Colo captain Jaime Pizarro holds the trophy.

JAL RECOPA FINAL '92

COLO COLO (CHILE) VS CRUZEIRO (BRAZIL)

April 19 = Kobe.
COLO COLO 0
CRUZEIRO 0.
Colo Colo won 5-4 on pens.

Att: 60,000. **Ref:** Juan Francisco Escobar Valdez (Par).
Colo Colo: Moron (Marcelo Ramirez 120), Salvatierra, Garrido, Margas, Vilches, Miguel Ramirez, Mendoza, Borghi, Pizarro, Gonzales (Rubio 90) Adomaitis.
Cruzeiro: Cesar, Roberto, Paulao, Adilson (Vanderci 50) Nonato, Ademir, Boiadeiro, Andrade, Fernando, Charles, Lopes (Macale 90).
Penalties — Cruzeiro: Nonato, Boiadeiro (missed), Charles, Paulo Roberto, Paulao. **Colo Colo:** Borghi, Adomaitis, Margas, Vilches, Pizarro.

Colo Colo take Recopa Cup

COLO COLO returned to Japan for the JAL Recopa Final against Cruzeiro of Brazil.

The Chilean champions were determined to win after their 3-0 defeat against Red Star Belgrade in the World Club Cup, but Cruzeiro created the chances, and even missed a penalty, in a game dominated by near-impermeable defences.

Colo Colo did well to hang on for a 0-0 scoreline after 120 minutes, then won 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out.

The Recopa, started in 1989, is played between the winners of the Libertadores Cup and the South American Super Cup (for past Libertadores winners).

There was no match last year because Olimpia of Paraguay won both the Libertadores and the Super Cups. Now, however, with the sponsorship of Japanese airline JAL, the Recopa has followed the World Club Championship to Japan.

A three-year contract was signed to play at the Universiade Memorial Stadium in Kobe. If the same team win both Cups, as happened last year, the Recopa final will be contested by the winners of the Libertadores Cup and a new CONMEBOL Cup for non-Libertadores teams.

Judging from the reaction of the Japanese fans, the Recopa is going to become a regular fixture. Few had heard of the tournament until a few weeks before the match, but 60,000 packed the stadium.

In the tenth minute of extra time, goalkeeper Moron tripped Charles, who hit a post from the spot.

Colo Colo sent on reserve keeper Ramirez for Moron in the shoot-out. That had everyone scrambling for rule books to see if such a substitution was allowed, but referee Escobar agreed that it was.

Boiadeiro was gulity of the critical miss with Cruzeiro's second kick, and with the score at 4-4, Pizarro's shot went in off a post.

MIKE **PLASTOW**

L'AIGLON FINISH ON TOP

L'AIGLON, one of the leading clubs in Martinique, clinched the title by drawing 0-0 with C.S. Case Pilote in the key match.

Case Pilote needed a win to avoid relegation, but L'Aiglon held on to draw and so take the championship by one point.

Eric Jean-Luis, with 16 goals, was the leading scorer in the League. US Robert retained second place thanks to a 2-0 victory over Real Tartane on the last day.

The champions of 1989 and 90, US Marinoise, finished sixth.

● **SOLIDARITE SCOLAIRE** have won the Guadelupe title. They were six points ahead of Olympic Mal with only one game left.

MARTINIQUE (final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
L'Aiglon	26	13	7	6	45	25	59
US Robert	26	12	8	6	34	17	58
Club Franciscain	26	10	12	4	25	15	58
JA Trenelle	26	13	6	7	38	29	58
Olympique	26	11	10	5	24	19	58
US Marinoise	26	10	9	7	31	24	54
RC Arlesien	26	6	11	10	25	32	50
Real Tartane	26	7	9	10	26	28	49
Rivere Pilote	26	5	13	8	20	27	49
Reveil Sportif	26	8	7	11	25	33	49
Samaritaine	26	6	10	10	29	28	48
Case Pilote	26	7	8	11	17	36	48
Golden Star	26	6	8	12	22	32	46
Club Colonial	26	6	6	14	18	41	44

GREGOR **ZIEMINSKI**

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diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by

KEIR RADNEDGE

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

ACTION: *In the Olympic qualifiers, Mexico draw 1-1 with Canada and the US beat Honduras 4-3 . . . Vasco da Gama stay top in Brazil after a bad-tempered 1-1 draw with Portuguesa which sees both teams finish with 10 men through expulsions . . . Milan thrash Sampdoria 5-1 in San Siro . . . Barcelona keep up the pursuit in Spain by thrashing La Coruna 4-1 inspired by the markmanship of Julio Salinas; Real Madrid keep their noses in front by beating Burgos 2-0.*

MONDAY, APRIL 6

ENGLAND: *English players vote to strike if necessary in support of their union claim for continuing parity of the share-out of television income.*

UNITED STATES: *Fast food chain McDonald's comes on board as another World Cup sponsor.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

ACTION: *A busy night in the South American club cup including one match in which three players are sent off in the tie between Deportivo Valdez of Ecuador and Universidad de los Andes of Venezuela.*

ENGLAND: *This summer's Makita event will be staged at Leeds and involves the hosts, Nottingham Forest, Stuttgart and Sampdoria . . . Liverpool manager Graeme Souness undergoes triple heart bypass surgery.*

ITALY: *One-time golden boy Gianni Rivera is re-elected for the Christian Democrats as an MP in Milan in the general election.*

FRANCE: *Marseille win 2-0 away to Valenciennes, Papin's first club, in a French Cup third round tie. Later Marseille confirm that Trevor Steven will be staying on for at least one more season.*

GERMANY: *Borussia Monchengladbach beat Leverkusen 2-0 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in their Cup semi-final.*

SPAIN: *Bilbao appoint German Jupp Heynckes as coach for next season.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

ACTION: *In international friendlies Romania beat Latvia 2-0, Turkey beat Denmark 2-1.*

GERMANY: *Second Division Hannover beat Cup holders Werder Bremen 6-5 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw to reach the German Cup final . . . newcomers Christian Worns and Marco Haber are included in the national squad for the Toni Schumacher Farewell match and the next full international against Czechoslovakia.*

ITALY: *Milan's Frank Rijkaard reports appendicitis problems but may not need an operation until the summer . . . Ascoli suspend defender Antonio Aloisi and midfielder Angelo Pierleoni for an on-pitch argument in the 2-1 home defeat by Inter . . . Gianni Rivera attacks Silvio Berlusconi's futuristic view of a game dominated by club interests.*

SPAIN: *Valladolid sack coach Francisco Maturana.*

SWEDEN: *Local police are given the go-ahead to compile a computerised file on hooligans.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA announce plans to crack down on the "parking" of foreign players i.e. their purchase by one club and immediate loan to another . . . St Gallen name Leen Looijen as caretaker to succeed dismissed Heinz Bigler. Looijen was previously coach with Dutch club NEC Nijmegen.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

ACTION: *Denmark lose 1-0 to Italy in a European Under-21 semi-final tie.*

NORWAY: *A local medical report says 30 per cent of former league players suffer from permanent head, neck and shoulder problems as well as occasional dizziness and memory loss as a result of heading the ball.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA name Hong Kong as venue for the 1992 five-a-side championship.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

UKRAINE: *The new Ukraine national team will play their first match against Hungary at the end of the month. CIS players are given temporary clearance to play for both countries if they wish until the European Championship.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

ACTION: *Monaco win 4-1 at Nantes to move within one point of leaders Marseille in France . . . Stuttgart edge to the top in Germany with a 2-0 win over Nurnberg.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA's list of referees for the European Championship is issued and not one English or Scottish official is included. Favourite for the final is Italian Tulio Lanese.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

ACTION: *Manchester United beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 in the Rumbelows League Cup Final . . . a remarkable match in Italy sees Atalanta draw 4-4 with Foggia . . . Manolo scores four goals in Spain as Atletico Madrid thrash Cadiz 6-1 to keep up the pressure on Real Madrid.*

MONDAY, APRIL 13

ENGLAND: *Liverpool beat Portsmouth 3-1 on penalties after a goalless draw in their FA Cup semi-final replay at Villa Park.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

ACTION: *Ernst Happel's first match as Austria manager brings a 4-0 win over Lithuania in Vienna . . . Sao Paulo beat Bolivar 2-0 in the South American club cup.*

ARGENTINA: *Diego Maradona is warned by FIFA not to play in a benefit match for the dependents of Juan Gilberto Funes.*

GERMANY: *Berti Vogts says Ulf Kirsten stays in his squad despite revelations about his past links with the East German secret police, the Stasi.*

ITALY: *Juventus beat Milan 1-0 with a goal by Schillaci to reach the Cup final. The first leg finished 0-0.*

UNITED STATES: *Kaiserslautern defender Thomas Dooley is cleared to play international football for the US.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

ACTION: *Brazil struggle to beat Finland 3-1 . . . the second legs of the European club semi-finals see Sampdoria and Barcelona top their groups in the Champions' Cup, Monaco and Werder Bremen make it in the Cup-winners' Cup and Torino and Ajax in the UEFA Cup.*

ARGENTINA: *Maradona plays alongside 30 other top players in the Funes benefit match in defiance of orders from FIFA and the Argentine federation. He calls FIFA officials "inhuman robots" and says that nobody in Argentina will weep any tears when FIFA president Joao Havelange dies.*

FRANCE: *The Justice Ministry announces an inquiry into suspected fraud among eight top clubs, including Marseille, Cannes, Toulouse, Montpellier, Nantes, Lille and Paris Saint-Germain. Marseille president Bernard Tapie is Urban Affairs Minister in the government but, ironically, he had stepped down as a Deputy to take the post which means he no longer holds parliamentary immunity against prosecution.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

FRANCE: *Joel Bats, former World Cup keeper, decides to retire at the season's end.*

SPAIN: *Robert Prosinecki, with only five matches played for Real Madrid, is ruled out for the rest of the season beacuse of his thigh muscle problems.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA turns down a Dominican Republic protest that the Puerto Rico side which beat them in the World Cup qualifiers was ineligible en bloc because the players all held US passports.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

BELGIUM: *Paul Van Himst names uncapped Gunther Hofmans of Ekeren in the World Cup squad to face Cyprus . . . a Werder Bremen fan is still critical in hospital in Bruges after being struck in the chest by a rocket flare at the midweek Cup-winners' Cup tie.*

GERMANY: *Andy Moller says he is considering legal action to resolve his transfer confusion involving his prospective move from Eintracht Frankfurt to Juventus and/or Atalanta.*

ITALY: *European Championship disaster for Germany and domestic confusion for Inter as driving force Lothar Matthaus is ruled out for six months with a knee ligament injury suffered in last weekend's game against Parma.*

NORTHERN IRELAND: *Old hands Jimmy Quinn and Anton Rogan are recalled for the World Cup opener against Lithuania.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

ACTION: *Marseille take a decisive grip on the French chamionship by winning 3-0 away to second-placed Monaco. Then skipper Jean-Pierre Papin confirms that he will move to Milan this summer . . . the German title race grows ever more exciting. Stuttgart lose 1-0 to Bayern Munich, Frankfurt are held 1-1 by Wattenscheid which leaves Borussia Dortmund (1-0 winners last Thursday at Stuttgart Kickers) in a two-point lead with five matches to go . . . Milan beat Inter 1-0 to move six points clear in Italy thanks to a last-minute goal by Massaro . . . Porto move nine points clear of Benfica in Portugal thanks to a 2-1 victory over bottom club Penafiel . . . Hristo Stoichkov scores four times as Barcelona defeat Albacete 7-1 . . . Criciuma of Brazil beat Bolivar 2-1 in the South American club cup.*

PORTUGAL: *Benfica's Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern agrees to join Napoli at the season's end.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

ACTION: *In the World Cup qualifiers, Antigua and the Dutch Antilles draw 1-1 while Trinidad and Tobago beat Barbados 2-1 . . . the US beat Honduras 4-3 in an Olympic qualifier . . . Botafogo beat Goias 6-0 to narrow the gap on leaders Vasco in Brazil . . . Spanish leaders Real Madrid score seven goals of their own, against Espanol with four goals for Hierro.*

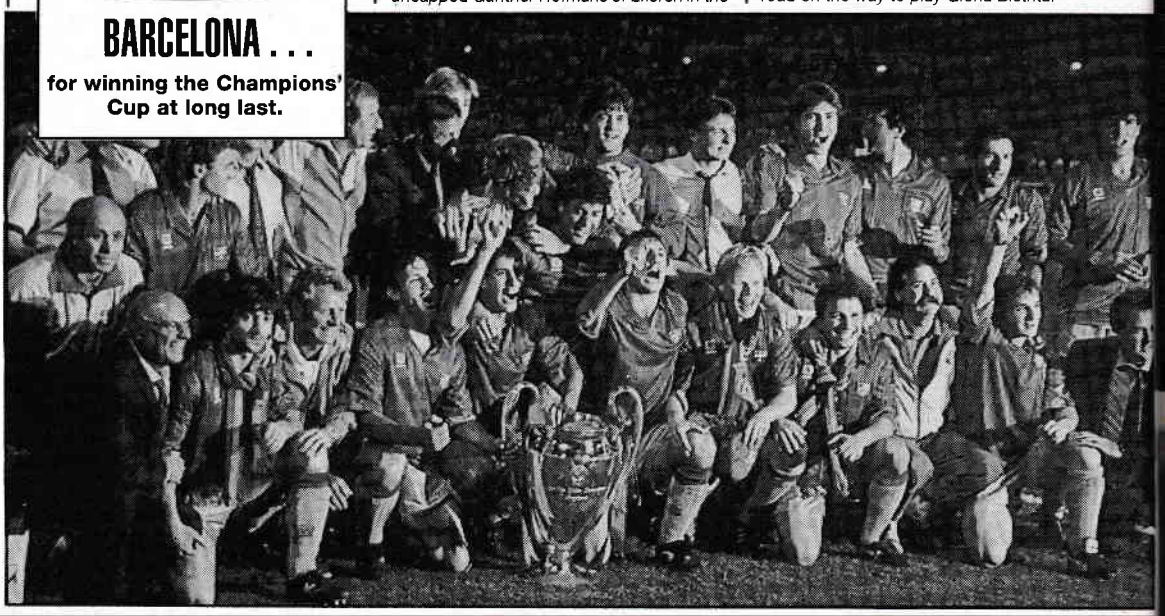
GERMANY: *Stefan Effenberg agrees to leave Bayern Munich at the season's end for Fiorentina . . . Nurnberg confirm the impending sales of Andre Golke to Stuttgart and Martin Wagner to Kaiserslautern to save their pro licence from suspension because of debt problems.*

ROMANIA: *Inter Sibiu midfielder Gabriel Nastase and defender Bogdan Banuta are killed when the team bus crashes off the road on the way to play Gloria Bistrita.*

TEAM OF THE MONTH

BARCELONA . . .

for winning the Champions' Cup at long last.



MONDAY, APRIL 20

ACTION: *China beat Indonesia 2-1 in the Asian Cup.*

FRANCE: *Assistant Jean Fernandez says he has been appointed to take over as Marseille coach from Raymond Goethals next term.*

GERMANY: *Willibald Kremer quits as MSV Duisburg coach.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

ACTION: *In the Olympic qualifiers Mexico beat Canada 4-1.*

GERMANY: *MSV Duisburg appoint Uwe Reinders, fired in February by Hansa Rostock as new coach.*

SPAIN: *Real Madrid suspend Mexican veteran Hugo Sanchez for the rest of the season and scrap plans for a testimonial in response to his private war with coach Leo Beenhakker.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA say no further action will be taken concerning Diego Maradona and other Argentine stars who played in the Funes benefit match.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

ACTION: *In the World Cup, Belgium beat Cyprus 1-0 and Spain beat Albania 3-0 . . . Czechoslovakia and Germany draw 1-1 in a Prague friendly while Sweden win 1-0 in Tunisia . . . Italy beat Denmark 2-0 to reach the final of the European Under-21s; Scotland and Sweden draw 0-0 in their semi-final first leg . . . Singapore lose 2-1 to Indonesia in the Asian Cup.*

FRANCE: *Michel Platini becomes the first Euro '92 manager to name his squad for Sweden.*

PORTUGAL: *Benfica are surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by Boavista in a Cup semi-final.*

SWEDEN: *Local fans queue for European Championship tickets returned by the CIS and Yugoslavia.*

SWITZERLAND: *German Aron Schmidhuber is named by UEFA to referee the Champions' Cup Final.*

UNITED STATES: *Lothar Matthaus undergoes surgery, apparently successfully, in Vail, Colorado, to repair his damaged right knee.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

FRANCE: *Monaco report Portuguese star Rui Barros doubtful for the Cup-winners-Cup Final because of a toe injury suffered in the weekend defeat by Marseille.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

ENGLAND/ITALY: *The reported collapse of Continental Assurance, the London-based specialist insurers, may prove costly for Milan, who hold a £2million policy which would pay up to £8million in win bonuses if the club, as seems highly probable, win the Italian League.*

SCOTLAND: *Surprisingly, Scotland are revealed as one of the Euro '92 finalists returning unsold tickets to Sweden.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

ACTION: *Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Dortmund are now all level on points at the top of the German League with four games to go. Frankfurt lead on goal difference after a 3-1 win away to Leverkusen.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

ACTION: *The US claim a place at the Barcelona Olympics thanks to a 3-0 win over Mexico, with two goals from Steve Snow . . . two goals from Roberto Baggio bring Juventus a 2-1 victory away to collapsing Inter . . . luck for Real Madrid in Spain, they lose 3-2 to Real Sociedad but Barcelona lose 2-1 to Tenerife.*

MONDAY, APRIL 27

ENGLAND: *The players' union settles its dispute over TV cash with the Premier League and calls off the threat of strike action.*

FRANCE: *Marseille announce plans for a shares issue.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

ACTION: *Lithuania, playing their first World Cup tie for more than 50 years, hit back surprisingly to draw 2-2 with Lithuania in Belfast . . . Switzerland lose 2-0 at home to Bulgaria in a friendly . . . CIS and England draw 1-1 in a B international in Moscow.*

BELGIUM: *Interior Minister Louis Tabback orders that next weekend's matches all be played in daylight on Sunday afternoon after hooligan trouble at last weekend's match between Standard and Antwerp in Liege when 14 policemen were injured . . . Brugge are banned from playing at home for one match by UEFA following trouble at the Cup-winners' Cup semi-final against Werder Bremen.*

ENGLAND: *Paul Gascoigne scores with a spectacular diving header in his first full-scale practice match since his knee ligament injury in last year's FA Cup Final.*

FRANCE: *Monaco beat Cannes 5-3 on penalties after a goalless draw in the French Cup semi-final.*

ITALY: *Napoli say Diego Maradona, like every other contracted player, will be summoned to pre-season training this summer. Napoli also claim to have signed a pre-contract with Barcelona's Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

ACTION: *Torino and Ajax draw 2-2 in the UEFA Cup Final first leg in Turin . . . international action sees Austria draw 1-1 with Wales, CIS draw 2-2 with England, Denmark beat Norway 1-0, the Irish Republic beat the US 4-1 and Ukraine lose 3-1 at home on their international debut against Hungary . . . Sweden reach the European Under-21 Final with a 1-0 second leg home win over Scotland . . . Sao Paulo score an excellent 1-0 win away to Nacional of Uruguay in the South American club cup.*

Denmark's Elstrup (left) scored the winner against Norway.

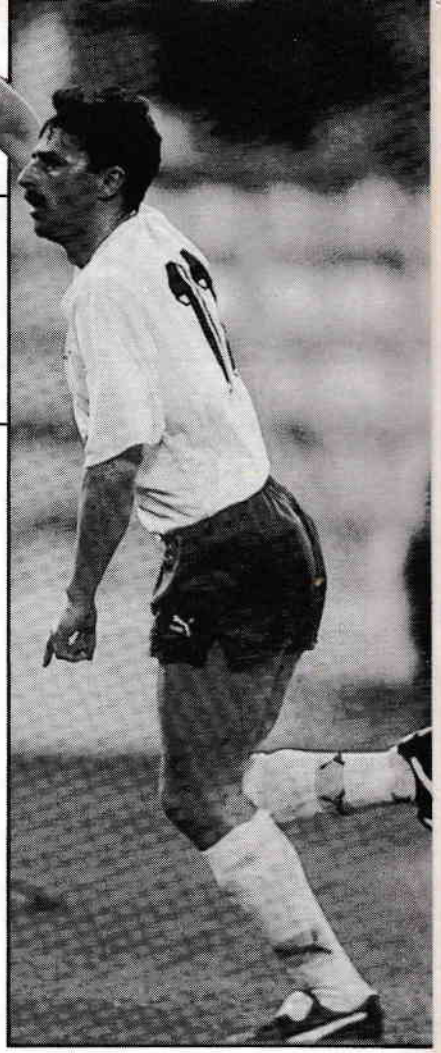
FRANCE: *Fabrice Divert is named to replace broken leg victim Amara Simba in the France squad for Sweden . . . a FIFA delegation leaves France after a fact-finding visit re the 1998 World Cup hosting bids.*

GREECE: *PAOK and Olympiakos qualify for the Cup final.*

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

KLAUS ALLOFS . . .

of Werder Bremen, for winning a European club competition at the third attempt.



GERMANY: *Jurgen Kohler, of Juventus, may miss the European Championship finals because of nagging thigh muscle problems. He has already been ruled out for the rest of the Italian season.*

UNITED STATES: *At last the fund-raising key, the Coin Bill, is approved by the Senate.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

ACTION: *Uruguay beat Brazil 1-0 in Montevideo, Brazil's first defeat since Carlos Alberto Parreira returned to duty.*

ENGLAND: *Leeds agree a permanent three-year deal to keep France striker Eric Cantona.*

ITALY: *Parma reach the Cup final, drawing 2-2 after extra time away to Sampdoria and thus winning 3-2 on aggregate.*

SPAIN: *Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff threatens to drop Stoichkov before the Champions' Cup Final because of the row over the Bulgarian's possible move to Napoli.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA fine Sampdoria £10,000 for "unsporting behaviour" in the Champions' Cup on April 1. This is the largest of a string of punishments and penalties meted out in the wake of the last European club rounds.*

FRIDAY, MAY 1

GERMANY: *Schalke sack coach Alexander Ristic and appoint old hero Klaus Fischer in his place.*

SPAIN: *Real Madrid and Hugo Sanchez agree terms for the severence of his contract at the end of the season.*

SATURDAY, MAY 2

ACTION: *Arsenal's Sweden star Anders Limpar suffers suspected cheek and jaw damage in a 5-1 win over Southampton. He is injurd in a tenth-minute touchline clash which brings yellow cards for Southampton's Adams and Benali. Gary Lineker, with 35 goals, ends his last season as the First Division's top League-and-Cup marksman. Ian Wright (Crystal Palace then Arsenal) totals 31 but is top League scorer with 29 goals thanks to a hat-trick against Southampton. Leeds celebrate their championship presentation with a 1-0 home win over Norwich . . . Marseille win 1-0 at Lille and finish six points clear of Monaco in France . . . in Germany Borussia Dortmund are held 2-2 at home by Monchengladbach and drop one point behind joint leaders Frankfurt and Stuttgart . . . Atletico Madrid maintain their late run in Spain, winning 1-0 in Sevilla thanks to a goal from Paulo Futre.*

SUNDAY, MAY 3

ACTION: *Argentina's "Classic", the derby between River Plate and Boca Juniors draws record receipts of £1.1million. The match ends in a 2-2 draw . . . Adelaide City win the Australian championship after beating Melbourne Croatia 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out after the play-off ends goalless . . . PSV Eindhoven beat De Graafschaap 5-0 on the last day of the season amid championship celebrations and coach Bobby Robson's triumphant farewell . . . Milan beat Lazio 1-0 to move within one point of the Italian League title . . . Rui Aguas, back from injury after a four-month absence, scores in Benfica's 6-0 defeat on bottom club Uniao de Madeira . . . Real Madrid win 2-0 against Zaragoza to stretch their lead over Barcelona (held 1-1 by Burgos) to three points. Michel scores both Madrid goals.*

ENGLAND: *A testimonial match for Norman Whiteside, forced by injury into premature retirement, draws a crowd of 7,400 paying £40,000 to see Everton draw 2-2 with Manchester United.*

SOUTH AFRICA: *Federation officials announce agreement for Cameroon to visit for a three-match tour in early July to celebrate South Africa's impending reintegration into FIFA.*

SCOTLAND: *Leeds veteran Gordon Strachan pulls out of the European Championship reckoning because of back trouble which demands a full summer's rest.*

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Stuttgart's players celebrate their first Bundesliga title since 1984.

STUTTGART SNEAK TITLE IN FINAL MINUTES

A GOAL by skipper Guido Buchwald, with four minutes of the season remaining, gave Stuttgart the Bundesliga title in one of the most dramatic finishes in history.

Buchwald's decisive header, from a cross by Ludwig Kogl, gave Stuttgart a 2-1 victory away to Bayer Leverkusen after both sides had scored from penalties — Kree for Bayer after 20 minutes and Walter for VfB just before half time.

A draw would not have been enough for Stuttgart, because Borussia Dortmund's 1-0 victory in Duisburg meant that they too finished on 52 points. But Stuttgart had a goal difference of plus 30 compared with Borussia's plus 19.

Eintracht Frankfurt missed their chance to take their first title since 1959 on goal difference — plus 35 — when they lost 2-1 away to Hansa Rostock.

Poor Eintracht! They had claims for what seemed an obvious penalty turned down, had a goal disallowed in the 80th minute and then hit a post.

So East Germany's last champions Hansa, playing in their first Bundesliga season, played a decisive part . . . although they are relegated along with Stuttgart Kickers, Duisburg and Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Wattenscheid saved themselves by beating Borussia Mg 3-2 in their final match after being two goals down.

Stuttgart, champions for the fourth time, go into the Champions' Cup and Frankfurt and Dortmund go into the UEFA Cup with Koln (fourth) and defending champions Kaiserslautern, who finished fifth this time.

Bayern Munich had struggled all season and eventually finished tenth. So for the first time since 1978-79 they will not be taking part in European competition.

Matthias Sammer with the Bundesliga trophy.

Nearly all Bundesliga clubs will reduce their squads next season, to save money. Four teams were relegated and only two promoted, cutting the First Division from 20 clubs to 18, so there will be four fewer matches, and some managers feel they will not need as many players.

Karlsruhe's respected team boss, Winfried Schafter, says: "A smaller squad means fewer dissatisfied players, we shall manage quite well by cutting from 19 professionals to 16".

Karlsruhe will have the smallest staff in the league, but generally German clubs employ far fewer full-time pros than, for example, their English counterparts.

Manchester United started the season with 41 professionals, Arsenal had 40, Liverpool 38 and Tottenham 35. By contrast, Germany's biggest and richest club, Bayern Munich, kept only 23 full-timers plus six amateurs, and are reducing their quota to 18.

Eintracht Frankfurt will stick with 18, Borussia Dortmund and VfB Stuttgart with 20. The outfit with the biggest contingent, Koln, plan to cut down from 29 to 22.

Altogether 80 professionals, some ten per cent of the total, will be axed in the summer break, while several big names are planning to leave for (hopefully) more lucrative ventures abroad.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR

Hodgso

SWITZERLAND'S first home international under new English manager Roy Hodgson ended in disappointment.

His team slumped to a 2-0 defeat against modest Bulgaria in Berne, and the attendance of 2,000 was the lowest for a home international.

Not one player reached normal form, while the much-vaunted Stephane Chapuisat, top scorer in the German Bundesliga, was a shadow of the player now pursued by Italian clubs.

Moderate

Perhaps no other national team manager allows himself to be interviewed as frequently as Hodgson, who made his name in Swedish football but had only moderate success with Xamax Neuchatel here. He knows a lot, and over Easter, for example, he visited Italy and Germany to watch and learn.

Hodgson claims that the Germans have made no progress recently, but the same can be said of the Swiss.

They had a good year by their standards, but are falling back into the old mistakes.

As national boss, Hodgson misses the daily involvement and contact with players, though he admits that he has more time to

Kocian . . . played his last game for Czechoslovakia against Germany.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

BERTI PRAISED 'GOOD PARTNERS'

A SECOND 2-2 draw, with Germany, a month after the game with England, is reason enough for Czech optimism in the World Cup qualifying group.

Seven foreign-based stars were home for the German match in Strahov's Rosicky Stadium.

One was playing his last game, or rather going on symbolically for the last 15 minutes: Jan Kocian, the 34-year-old St Pauli defender, who is retiring to become a coach. Only 12,000 were present to see his farewell after 25 appearances in the national team.

There were again difficulties over ticket distribution, an embarrassment for the FA, who had predicted a large crowd.

German coach Berti Bogts said Czechoslovakia had been a good, strong preparation match partner in his build-up for Sweden.

Sparta's Nemecek, who was expected to join Kadlec at Kaiserslautern, has opted to go to Toulouse and link with Hyravy.

Hapal's future still has to be decided, but Dubovsky is now drawing the scouts, and by the beginning of the World Cup campaign perhaps Kuka will be the only home-based player in the first-choice team.

Membership

Skuhravy, who won his 35th cap in the match against Germany, was honoured by the "Hot Shots" Club, the association of former players who have scored 100 or more First Division goals. Skuhravy's 28th for Genoa plus his 72 in his Czechoslovak League qualified him for membership. The Club meet regularly, and arrange charity matches.

In the League there is an unexpected build-up to the season's end. Slovan looked to be running away with the title but had to meet Sparta at home and lost 3-0 before a remarkable crowd, 42,880.

Olomouc only drew at Dukla, so Sparta were back in second place four points behind. A week later both Slovan, at Dunajska Streda, and Sparta, home to Bohemians, won 1-0.

Slovan remain favourites, but it could be close. Both the Czech and Slovak Cup competitions have reached the final stage.

Sparta eliminated Bohemians 1-0 away while Brno and Banik played full and extra time without a goal before Ostrava took the tie 4-3 on penalties.

There was low scoring, too, in the Slovak semis. Slovan remained on course for the double by beating Tatran Presov 1-0, and meet local rivals Dunajska Streda in an all-western final.

So Sparta or Banik will meet Slovan or Dunajska Streda in the All-Czechoslovak Final, at a Slovak venue.

TMIL

's hard road

coach and work with them than other national managers. He complains that the Swiss present a mixture of systems and attitudes, no doubt due to their multi-racial and multi-lingual society.

But Hodgson rejects the idea that the Swiss could ever play like the Italians or the Germans. Good football, according to him, is "a question of coaching".

For the Swiss to become a world force in football, they would need to be more motivated. Their biggest problems are that they dislike criticism and do not take responsibility.

The Swiss national squad, incidentally, will be "sold" to a single sponsor who would have to pay at least £400,000 for two years during the World Cup qualification period. So far there have been no takers.

Hodgson . . . disappointing beginning.

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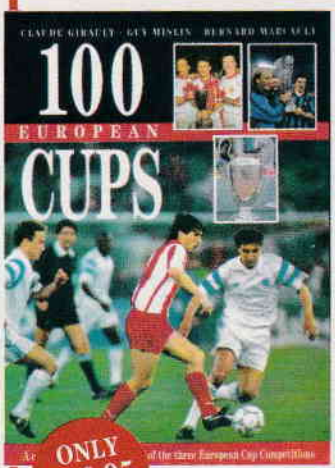

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FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Moving on . . . Papin says goodbye to Marseille.

Tapie goes bounding on

WITH one bound, Bernard Tapie was free. Or will he be? Tapie, president of Marseille, does tend to be a bit of a Houdini, as the recent French regional elections showed, but even he may have trouble in wriggling out of his club's present predicament.

Jean-Pierre Papin, hero of yet another Championship victory, bound for Milan, even if £8 million and Zvonimir Boban are on their way in return (but with viral hepatitis, who knows how long it will take for Boban to strut his stuff?)

Trevor Steven agitating for a signing-on fee anywhere between £1 and £1.5 million.

Chris Waddle doomed to be discarded, despite a performance in the crucial League match against Monaco deemed so brilliant that one French critic nicknamed him Woddle as a tribute to the immensely talented Glenn Hoddle, not long ago a Monaco player.

And, in the wings, the Revenue men, with all kinds of charges and accusations about supposedly illegal payments. Just as well that Tapie seems to revel in difficulties. "Milan," says Papin, "is the greatest club in the world." that may well be true, and he can bask in the knowledge that his new manager, Fabio Capello, cannot wait to see him lining up alongside Marco Van Basten.

Grateful

Since February, all has been signed and sealed, even if Tapie, with the indulgence of Milan, went through a silly charade of pretending that the deal had not been done. "Without Tapie," Papin says, gratefully, "nothing would have been possible."

I wonder whether fans of Marseille will be quite as grateful to the volatile Bernard, and quite why Tapie was so eager to let Papin go.

For who can replace him? "There's Boksic," says Papin. "It's a great opportunity. With him, two wingers would be necessary, and a strengthening of the midfield."

As some sort of compensation, Papin points out that at least the Brazilian international stopper, Mozer, looks as if he'll now stay for another year. But Mozer doesn't score too many goals.

Papin is as keen to play alongside Van Basten as Capello is to have him do so.

So unlucky . . . Simba's freak accident cost him his place.

They are two very different kinds of player, says Papin, and he hopes this will allow them to blend.

In all humility, Papin even says that he'd be prepared to accept not being a first choice. Which would seem a truly shocking waste of one of Europe's finest goal-getters.

Recently Bernard Lama helped Lens to a 1-0 home win over Paris Saint Germain, who thus found themselves, though in third place, a full 10 points behind Marseille. Next season, Lama will succeed the distinguished Joel Bats in the Parisian goal.

Bats could carry on, but has now decided enough is enough, and has accepted a coaching job with the club.

Paris SG are hoping to do a great deal better next season. At least they will be contesting the UEFA Cup, and they know that the enthusiasm is there, when they do well.

There were 45,000 at Parc des Princes to see them draw against Saint Etienne. Gone are those dark days when Paris was so little interested in its teams that Racing Club divided home matches between Paris and Strasbourg.

Amara Simba, the quick, coloured striker should be ready by next season. Which will hardly console him for missing the trip to Sweden for the European Championship.

A banal accident in training, a broken bone suffered when he went up for a high ball with the young Vasconcellos, has ruled him out. Which left Michel Platini to name the one player in his squad who would constitute something of a surprise.

Gainsay

The average gate in Paris this season was nearly 28,000; satisfactory indeed. But though you could not gainsay the claims of the club's main man, Michel Denisot, that the players were always ready to sweat for their side, elegant Paris demands something more from its teams.

Simba, probably, will leave. So will the Brazilian international centre-half. Geraldao, who has not had a happy season. But David Ginola, picked up during the season from now defunct Brest, and so much more comfortable in his second spell in Paris, will certainly remain.

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

TWO IN PRISON AFTER CROWD VIOLENCE

TWO spectators have been sent to prison as a result of the organised violence at the Standard-Antwerp game in April.

Three policemen were seriously injured and many innocent spectators also needed hospital treatment after incidents at the match and elsewhere in Liege later that night.

The hooligans had either forgotten or did not care about what happened at Heysel in 1985.

New measures are to be brought in to combat future trouble, with increased punishments and more police dogs available at matches.

The championship race turned into a cliff-hanger before Club Brugge clinched the title.

Two goals by Daniel Amokachi gave Club Brugge a 2-1 win in Waregem and put them ahead of Anderlecht, held 0-0 by Mechelen.

Then 2-1 away victories by both meant that Brugge led by a point with two matches to play, and their win, allied to an Anderlecht defeat, wrapped it up.

Anderlecht have moved to strengthen their squad for next season, signing Dutch striker Peter Van Vossen from Beveren.

Vital goals . . . Amokachi.

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

FODOR STARS, THEN SLIPS

KISPEST-HONVED, losing three times in five matches, have virtually waved goodbye to their chances of retaining the Hungarian title.

They looked weary in a 2-0 home defeat before 20,000 to Ferencvaros, their main rivals and now the favourites. But Kispest kept on level terms by beating the fading Siofok and lowly Diosgyor, only to collapse 3-1, at home, to Vac, the third horse in the title race, and Vasas, who achieved a shock 1-0 win.

Ferencvaros, unbeaten with ten wins and two draws since the mid-winter break, have been invigorated by Imre Fodor, signed from Siofok in mid-season. He scored in the win over Kispest and over MTK-VM, two of his former clubs, but was sent off against the latter.

He also was injured, and could not accept an invitation to join the national squad for the friendly against England.

The four-point lead and superior goal difference that Fradi had obtained over Kispest with five rounds remaining would normally mean another title for Hungary's most successful club (23 championship titles, 15 Cup wins). But inviting positions have been messed up in the recent past, and Vac lurk only a point behind.

When Ferencvaros last won the championship in 1980-81, Tibor Nyilasi scored 30 goals to finish second in the adidas European Golden Boot competition. Now, in his second season in management, he has learnt from the troubles of the first year.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

PEACEFUL PARMA POINT THE WAY

Below: Celebrating . . . Brolin and Grun wave to the crowd after Parma's Cup victory.

THE Northern Italian town of Parma is justly famous for its hams and its parmesan cheese.

So much do both products underpin the local economy that banks all keep refrigerated vaults where both cheeses and hams can be lodged as collateral.

Given recent soccer results, however,the banks may soon consider investing in another local product, namely Parma football club.

Their victory in this season's Italian Cup served as a timely reminder that, even in Italy, money is not the only basis for footballing success.

Parma, promoted from the Second Division only two seasons ago, did well in their first year in the Italian elite, finishing as a UEFA Cup qualifier in joint fifth place.

This year, they have done even better, finishing in the UEFA zone but also guaranteeing themselves a place in the Cup-winners' Cup, with a 2-1 aggregate defeat of Juventus in the Italian Cup final.

The Parma success story merits some reflections.

Discussing the team's achievements recently, Aldo Agroppi, one of Italy's most outspoken soccer critics, pointed out that the best thing Parma had going for them was "a peaceful, calm atmosphere" in which players develop and improve, make mistakes and then recover, all far from the disturbing media gaze that is permanently focussed on Italy's traditionally great teams such as Juventus, Milan, Internazionale, Napoli, AS Roma etc.

"Una piazza tranquilla", as the natives would say.

Coach Nevio Scala, entertaining the press to champagne on the morning after his side had come back from an unlucky 1-0 away loss in the first leg of the final to win 2-0, admitted that relative peace of mind was indeed the secret of their success: "That's the great thing about Parma, nothing is taken out of proportion here.

"Nobody gets too worked up about a defeat and likewise nobody wastes much time praising you for a win."

Shielding . . . Parma's Melli holds off Juventus' Carrera in the Cup final.

Shrewd

Scala is doubtless correct. Yet Parma's less pressurised atmosphere does not, in itself, explain the club's success.

If it did, then any number of Italy's so called "provincial" sides would be winning Cups and League titles by the week.

Scala's own considerable skill, astute club management, the backing of Paramalat Foods President, Calisto Tanzi, and shrewd dealings on the transfer market also made their contribution to the rise and rise of Parma.

For example, when the club won promotion two summers ago, they spent a modest £3 million, on three foreigners — Swedish striker Thomas Brolin, Brazilian goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel and Belgian midfielder Georges Grun. By the standards of the Italian First Division that's peanuts.

In that same summer of 1990, Juventus spent more than £20 million on the transfer market buying Roberto Baggio, Thomas Hassler and Julio Cesar.

Since last summer, Bari have spent more than £16 million and still failed to avoid relegation.

Not only were Parma's three foreigners cheap at the time but all three have proved excellent performers, playing key roles in their success story.

Brolin and Taffarel will stay with the club next season while Grun is returning to Belgium only for family reasons, and against the wishes of Parma, who wanted to extend his contract.

Furthermore, regular first choice players such as captain Lorenzo Minotti, defender Luigi Apolloni and strikers Marco Osio and Alessandro Melli are either home-grown or have been with the club for more than seven seasons.

Add to that two handy purchases last summer, those of full- backs Antonio Benarrivo from Padova and Alberto Di Chiara from Fiorentina, and you get the impression of a shrewdly managed club.

When Parma splashed more than £2.5 million for Milan's Massimo Agostini last summer, they did so only because Milan had just paid them even more for their then right-back Enzo Gambaro. Presbyterian book-keeping, a la parmigiano.

Parma's Cup win provided the only minor surprise of an Italian First Division season that has looked entirely predictable since Christmas.

Milan, champions for the twelfth time, reduced the League contest to a walk-over, while at the other end of the table, the four relegations — those of Bari, Verona, Cremonese and Ascoli — were also long-announced affairs.

In between, a variety of clubs merit a mention. Juventus collect a rosette for having provided the only serious opposition to Milan all season.

Their neighbours Torino collect another for gallant UEFA Cup Final failure against Ajax Amsterdam, while Napoli's third place in their first post-Maradona season represents no small achievment on the part of coach Claudio Ranieri.

Sharply

Sampdoria, for having reached the Champions' Cup Final at the first attempt, AS Roma for a springtime revival that contrasted sharply with local rivals Lazio, and Cagliari for a deserved First Division survival are others worthy of commendation.

Negative votes, however, must go to Genoa's players who, having ruined their UEFA Cup semi-final preparations with an argument about match bonuses for a final they were not to reach, then fell apart in the Championship, losing five consecutive games.

Equally low votes this season go to the Internazionale squad for failing to support new coach Corrado Orrico, who resigned in January, to Fiorentina's fans for their consistent heckling of coach and players, and to Bari for the greatest case of ill-advised transfer spending of recent seasons.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Strange — it's a sell-out

ONLY Ernst Happel, the new national team manager, could have sparked such enthusiasm in recently-humiliated Austrian football.

For the friendly international against Wales, not exactly a world power, all 53,000 tickets in the Prater Stadium in Vienna were sold in advance, something which has never happened before for a meaningless game.

The fans saw a moderate match against a Welsh side deprived through injury and club calls of at least six regulars. Even against this hastily assembled motley, the Austrians could only draw 1-1.

Schemer

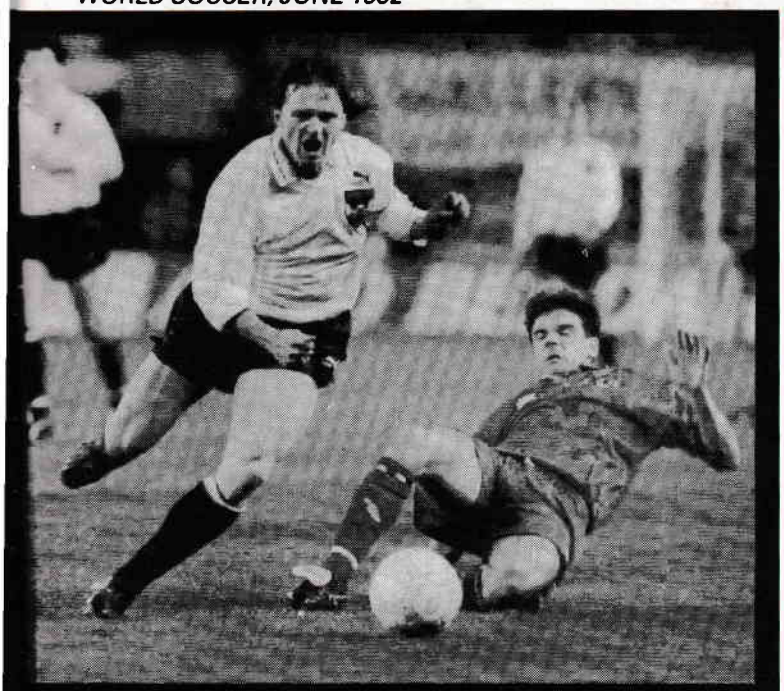
In club football two Rapid players are making a comeback: Norwegian striker Jan-Aage Fjortoft, lately only a reserve because of fluctuating form, and the international Andy Herzog, the "permanently" injured schemer, already once written off.

Fjortoft scored two goals in the

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

BIG THR TROPHY

Leaving . . . Gerets is returning to Belgium to manage Liege.



Falling . . . Austrian captain Andreas Ogris on his way down after a tackle by Welsh defender Mark Bowen during the friendly international in Vienna.

4-0 win over Tirol, Herzog hit one and laid on two. Tirol's team manager, Horst Hrubesch, was disconsolate. "We did everything wrong — I can't understand it," he said.

Worse was to follow when the Innsbrucker were unceremoniously dumped out of the Cup by Second Division Grazer AK.

They missed Christoph Westerthaler, top scorer in the League last autumn, who had lost his touch and was relegated to the bench. Against St Polten he got two more goals and returned to the top of the scoring list.

Tirol are facing hard times. Sponsors Swarovski are planning to withdraw their support — the club would revert to their former title of FC Wacker — but the millions poured into the club would not be easily replaced, and the club would experience a financial slump.

Coach Hrubesch may not wait for this setback. "Some of our players may have to be sold," he reflects sadly. And he too could be moving.

EE WIN A APIECE

HOLLAND'S three biggest clubs all finished the season by winning a major prize.

PSV Eindhoven won the League, Ajax beat Torino on away goals to take the UEFA Cup, and Feyenoord won the Dutch Cup for the second year running.

PSV dropped only ten points in 34 matches, losing once, and finished with a three-point lead over Ajax. Yet they will hope that next season, when Hans Westerhof replaces Bobby Robson as manager, their team will function more as a unit.

Gerald Vanenburg and Gica Popescu may leave, and Eric Gerets has retired at 38. He won 87 caps for Belgium and was long seen as the best right-back in the world.

Gerets is to manage Liege, rivals of his former club, Standard. PSV will miss his will to win.

Ajax finished the season playing the best football in Holland. Their 5-0 away win in their last match, against SVV/Dordrecht, summed up their progress.

Chairman Michael van Praag felt the confidence to boast: "The way we've been playing for the last few weeks, we'll win the championship for years to come."

PSV have won the title in six of the past seven seasons, and their fears will have been eased by Ajax's performance in the second leg of the UEFA Cup final.

They drew the first leg 2-2 in Turin, where they were the better side, but in Amsterdam the old phrase "Lucky Ajax" came to mind time after time. Torino hit the woodwork three times, once in the last minute.

Still, Ajax were without Dennis Bergkamp, their key player, and their extravagant attacking football with such a young, homegrown side in itself merited a prize. Seven of the players who started the final started their careers with the club.

Remember, also, that in the course of this season Ajax sold their two most renowned players, Richard Witschge and Jan Wouters, to Barcelona and Bayern Munich respectively, while manager Leo Beenhakker went to Real Madrid.

Snigger

Feyenoord had equal cause to feel satisfied. They sought three prizes, but in March they fell behind PSV and then lost to Monaco in a thrilling Cup-winners' Cup semi-final.

Their one prize after a season of long-awaited revival, a 3-0 victory over Roda Kerkrade in the domestic Cup Final, was tarnished by events afterwards.

Thousands flocked to the centre of Rotterdam to greet their team, but there were fights, and shops were damaged. Hardly a surprise, because the organisers had had the bright idea of distributing free beer.

"We learned from events in Rotterdam," said the organiser of Ajax's post-final celebrations, barely suppressing a snigger.

Vitesse Arnhem finished fourth, to qualify for the UEFA Cup, but have lost long-serving manager Bert Jacobs to Sporting Gijon.

VVV Venlo and De Graafschap were relegated, and Cambuur Leeuwarden promoted to the Premier Division for the first time.

The winner of the First Division play-offs will take the other vacant place.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

OLSEN IS SACKED AS BRONDBY CRASH

BRONDBY fighting for their life! That is the incredible truth for Denmark's superclub who just a year ago had celebrated reaching the UEFA Cup semi-finals.

One black week summed up the astonishing plight of the club who had almost single-handedly dragged domestic Danish football towards professionalism and international respectability.

Two defeats in three days after a poor start to the second half of the first "Superliga" season meant the sack for trainer Morten Olsen.

Yes, the same coach who three months earlier had signed a long-term contract, resisting overtures from big clubs in Italy, Germany and Belgium.

The same coach who had taken them to a European semi-final, and the man who is Denmark's most capped and most respected player of all time.

The news stunned Danish soccer. *The BT*, a Danish newspaper, produced a special issue with pages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 28 all devoted to the sensational story.

Upmarket paper *Information* ran a leading article criticising Brondby, calling Olsen one of the world's five best trainers.

True enough, champions Brondby had an awful start to the second half of the season, and the 3-2 defeat at home to Silkeborg left them next to bottom of the eight-team League, having been at the top at the mid-season break.

But that was still only five points off top place, and every team and coach is surely allowed one slump.

Strength

Rumours abounded that Olsen's strict style had begun to alienate Brondby players, and there was a mixed reaction from them to his departure.

Danish interntational John Faxe Jensen, controversially dropped for the Silkeborg match, thought fans would see an immediate improvement in the team's performance.

But captain Kim Christofte supported Olsen, saying a big foreign club would now reap the benefit of his talent and strength.

Brondby chairman Per Bjerrgaard, the local doctor who founded the club in 1964, quickly brought in former coach Ebbe Skovdahl as caretaker until the end of the season. Bjerrgaard said he hoped Skovdahl's lighter, more friendly approach to players would restore morale and performances.

As if all that wasn't enough, two days later the club's existence was brought into question as their shares were suspended on the Danish stock exchange, just as those of Tottenham Hotspur were in England last year.

The reasons were similar, Brondby trying to diversify by buying 73 per cent of shares in the small InterBank, and facing massive repayments on loans taken out to finance the deal.

If Brondby crash they will automatically be removed from the top three divisions of the Danmarksserien — which would be a catastrophe not just for the club but also for domestic football in Denmark generally.

Struggling . . . Olsen was sacked by Brondby, now in desperate trouble.

The club had completely changed the landscape of soccer in Denmark, with the new FC Kobenhavn, a merger between B1903 and KB, just about to be launched to rival Brondby as a big-money side.

Suddenly, anybody's confidence in maintaining full-time professional soccer in the country had to be questioned.

Snatch

The extraordinary events surrounding Brondby completely overshadowed the exciting first "Superliga" in which seven teams, including Brondby, could snatch the title.

At the time of Olsen's sacking B1903, in their last season before the merger, were top on 23 points, just one ahead of Frem and Lyngby.

Then came revitalised AGF Aarhus on 20 points, with Aalborg, Silkeborg and Brondby all on 18.

But that hardly seemed to matter, nor the fortunes of the national side, even with Brian Laudrup back in the squad.

Ironically, it is the national team who may benefit from Brondby's troubles. The obvious next job for Morten Olsen always had been to coach the national team, and that day may now not be far away.

PORTUGAL BY ALBERTO DA SILVA

Robson faces elite task

BOBBY ROBSON is the talk of the town now that he has become manager of Sporting Lisbon, one of the Big Three in Portuguese football.

Two new signings already have been announced: Stan Valckx, a defender from PSV Eindhoven, where Robson used to be manager, and Carlos Jorge, a Portuguese international of some reputation who used to play for Maritimo of Madeira.

Robson has brought into his new club something they have missed for ages — a new faith. There is a fresh wave of confidence at Alvalade Stadium.

The club hope that Robson will help them to end the domination of Benfica and FC Porto, who divide most of the honours.

Sporting Lisbon used to be an elite club. People would say that they were the "upper-class" outfit.

They have an English name, their people were usually nearer to if not part of the old Portuguese establishment.

At Sporting everything had to be proper. No excesses could be accepted.

Now life has changed the Lisbon Lions. After so many years in Benfica's shadow they have become more attractive to the football masses.

As a taxi-driver said to me: "We are not like Benfica. At the Stadium of Light, the fans desert their club when the results are not satisfactory. It's different with us. Alvalade is always full. We won't give up."

Robson has a tremendous task awaiting him as he takes on the Big Two.

Alexandre Alves promised a lot when standing for election as Benfica's president.

But his partners at FNAC, a large air-conditioning company, were quick to tell people before the ballot: "Please don't elect him. He will spend our company's money!"

Alves used to be a worker's co-operative leader in the post-revolution days. Now he is chief executive and managing director.

But he's not club president. He gained only 22 per cent of the votes and Jorge de Brito won by a mile.

Signing on . . . Bobby Robson with the Sporting Lisbon president, Jose Sousa Cintra.

UKRAINE BY BOB VAUGHAN

THE most historic event of the season took place in Uzhgorod when national team manager Viktor Prokopenko sent his national team on to the field in the tiny border stadium to face Hungary.

He was helped in his selection by the Kiev Dynamo and Shaktyor Donetsk managers, Puzach and Yarentchenko, and put out a strong team despite the clash with the CIS playing England in Moscow.

A crowd of 12,000 saw the Hungarians win 3-1. Guetsko of Chernomorets scored his country's first-ever goal, in the last minute.

In the championship the half-way stage was reached with the leaders in Group B, Kiev Dynamo and Bukovina, meeting in Cernivstri. Despite having to resist considerable pressure, and Matveev hitting a post, Bukovina held on for a goalless draw and a point.

In Group A Tavria and Simferopol lead the way, with Prokopenko's Chernomorets third.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

VASILIS SHINES WHILE OLYMPIAKOS COUNT COST

ARIS SALONICA sold Vasilis Dimitriadis to AEK Athens last summer because they thought he did not have a future with the club.

What may not have been a future for Aris certainly seems like an outstanding one for AEK, as 26-year-old striker Dimitriadis has turned things around, lifting the club to the top Greek First Division spot and becoming the League's leading scorer.

With only two matches remaining, AEK were two points ahead of Olympiakos, both with a goal difference of plus 43.

As for Dimitriadis, he seemed set to receive a car for finishing on top of the scoring table. He had 25 goals, six more than Dimitris Saravakos of Panathinaikos, who has dominated the League scoring lists in the recent past.

Coach Dusan Bayevich says: "Dimitriadis plays for the team and not for himself. This is very significant for a soccer player."

Olympiakos continue their winning ways on the pitch, despite their ongoing financial and administrative problems. The club made it to the finals of the League Cup, against PAOK, and continue to be a major contender for the League title as well.

A new law passed by Parliament seeks to safeguard sports franchises from becoming embroiled in financial scandals such as the Olympiakos saga. The reform package was hammered out after months of negotiations between Sports Under-secretary Vasilis Papageorgopoulos and the management of Greece's top 16 soccer teams, although Olympiakos are the only club embroiled in scandal.

The new legislation has raised a storm of protest from opposition parties as well as some club owners. They believe that the new law does not close various loopholes used by clubs to evade taxes, or set clear guidelines for financial transactions — both sources of the Olympiakos morass.

Under the new law, the burden of clearing up debts falls on an interim committee that would be set up to see financially-strapped clubs through a crisis.

Under the new law, Olympiakos have been ordered to pay 60 per cent of revenues per month to clear their debts. This levy could cripple the team by limiting the resources available for acquiring new players.

The national team began World Cup preliminaries with an unimpressive 1-0 victory at home to Iceland. A goal by Panayotis Sofianopoulos saved Greece from an embarrassing result.

Coach Antonis Georgiadis's contract expires in December, and there is talk of his replacement.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND BY SEAN CREEDON

MAJOR CHANGE IN STORE

Top dog . . . Shelbourne captain Mick Neville with the League of Ireland trophy.

THE League of Ireland AGM on June 27 will be asked to approve a major change in next season's Premier League.

The plan is for the usual home and away games between the 12 clubs, then the top and bottom six will split and play a further series of home and away games to decide who wins the championship and who is relegated.

Two clubs will go down, and the tenth club in the Premier Division and the third club in the First Division will play off.

Refused

The Republic's game against Italy in the United States on June 4 will be Jack Charlton's 60th in charge. The Republic's other games in the four-nation tournament are against the host country and Portugal .

The last time Charlton met Portugal was as an England player at Wembley in 1969, when he scored the only goal.

The FAI have refused Trinity College permission to play Celtic in a exhibition game at College Park, the University's ground in Dublin.

Liam Brady was willing to waive the normal fee and bring Celtic to his home town to celebrate Trinity's 400th birthday, but the FAI felt that security at College Park, which does not have perimeter fencing, would be a problem for players and supporters.

Pat Byrne, player-manager of Premier Division champions Shelbourne, was voted Soccer Personality of the Year by journalists, and Pat Devlin was the first manager to quit at the end of the season. He parted company with Athlone Town, relegated from the Premier Division.

Ronnie Whelan missed Liverpool's FA Cup win over Sunderland, but there was better fortune for the Whelan family in Dublin. Ronnie's younger brother, Paul, captained Bohemians in their FAI Harp Lager Cup win over Cork City at Lansdowne Road.

So yet another disappointing end of season for Cork City, who had the League title snatched from their grasp on their own ground by Dundalk in the last game of 1990-91.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

SIRAKOV'S SCORING MAY BE WASTED

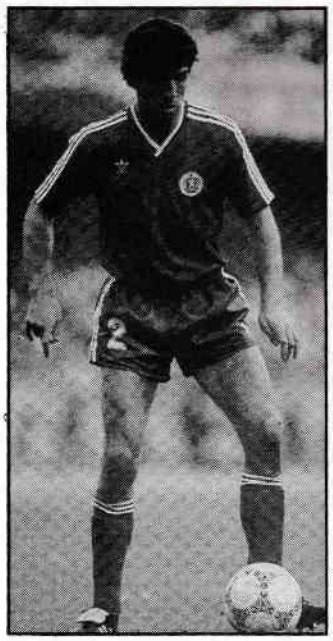
CSKA seemed certain of another Bulgarian title when, with only two games to go, they held a three-point lead over Levski, and a much better goal difference.

CSKA's 1-0 away win over Hebar means that the home club are sure to go down along with Miner.

Letchkov of CSKA has 16 League goals, but Petrov, signed by Levski from Botev to take the weight off Sirakov's shoulders, hardly makes the charts, more often the reserve bench.

Apart from a spectacular goal in the Cup, Petrov has been disappointing and Levski's challenge continued to depend on Sirakov, leading scorer in the League with 25 from 28 matches.

Beroe Stara Zagora's 10-2 defeat at CSKA was the third highest in Bulgarian history. Metkov notched five but the leaders could not quite match their efforts of 1951 under their previous title, CDNA, when Torpedo Ruse were seen off 12-0! Next best was their 10-1 thrashing of Cernomorets four seasons ago.



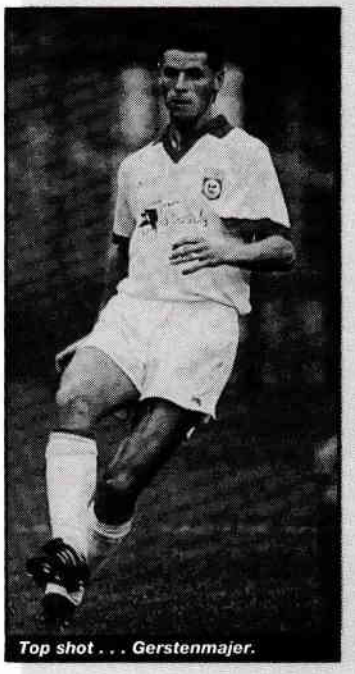
Top shot . . . Sirakov.

On the international front, the Under-21s drew with the Swiss in Liebefeld and the seniors won 2-0 against a disappointing home team, admittedly without Brunner, Sforza, Knup and Huber. Sirakov, not surprisingly, scored the first goal after 41 minutes, and Kostadinov added the second soon after half time.

ROMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Good start for Dinu squad

WHAT a cracking start to the 1994 World Cup qualifying group! Cornel Dinu's Romanian troops scored seven at home to the Faroe Islands, a warning to the Welsh — whose spies were stranded by the strikes in Germany and unable to witness the rout at first hand.



Top shot . . . Gerstenmajer.

They would have seen a Balint hat-trick, some Hagi magic and a goal by him, another by Lacatus from the spot, and further scores from Pana and Lupescu.

Then the Welsh were given the same treatment, lucky to escape with a 5-1 defeat after conceding all five goals in the first 35 minutes.

Unfortunately the national team will not be in action again until they visit Brussels in October.

Dinamo's Gerstenmajer is the leading scorer in the country, and his club went their first 28 League matches without a defeat.

His 19 goals have helped to put Dinamo five points clear of cross-town rivals Steaua, whose young team dropped another point to Corvinul in Hunedoara.

Victor Piturca's Steaua team will most likely have to settle for a UEFA Cup place.

At the same time 'U' Craiova's new rivals in the First Division Electroputere, were continuing with their excellent first season's input, beating Rapid Bucharest and maintaining an unexpectedly high fifth placing.

POLAND

LECH STAY AHEAD

A RARE friendly with Austria is the next test for "Klub Polska", though Group 2 does not begin in the World Cup for the Poles until late September when Turkey are the guests.

Domestic football meanwhile goes on well in to June, with Lech Poznan continuing to lead.

Widzew Lodz, Gornik and Katowice are probably too far behind to mount a serious challenge, but any one of the three could take the sole UEFA Cup place on offer.

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SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Right down to the wire

THIS SEASON is producing a grand finale in Spain, where the League, Cup, relegation, play-off and UEFA Cup issues are all still to be settled.

Much of the blame for such an exciting finish must be laid with Barcelona and Real Madrid, both unable to deliver the knock-out blow when they had their opponents groggy.

Barcelona allowed themselves to be distracted by the Champions' Cup Final and by rumours of Hristo Stoichkov's imminent acceptance of an £800,000-a-year offer from Napoli.

To be fair, matters progressed beyond the rumour stage — much to Johan Cruyff's annoyance — because of the Italian club's haste to register Stoichkov before the April 27 deadline, after which the Federation would limit non-EEC signings to two.

Dropped

Corrado Ferlaino, the Napoli president, persuaded Stoichkov's agent, Jose Maria Minguella, to sign documents allowing them to file a pre-contract with the Bulgarian. After Barcelona had dropped five points in four games, Cruyff acidly remarked: "Some people are so busy thinking about next season they've forgotten the small matter of this season."

Real Madrid will look back on a turbulent season and wonder how things might have been if Robert Prosinecki had been able to earn his £1.5m with more than three appearances and fewer than six muscle injuries.

When Spanish experts failed to provide answers, Dr Jose Martinez, better known as ex-player Pirri, rode shotgun on "Robby" as he visited Bayern Munich's Dr Wolfgang Moller Wohlfart and a specialised clinic in Lausanne.

Diagnosis? Er . . . well, maybe he should stop smoking, maybe he is affected by the civil war in Yugoslavia, maybe he's over-stressed by the death threats which prompted him to withdraw from Yugoslavia's European Championship squad, and maybe he needs treatment from his former doctor at Red Star Belgrade, Branko Nesovic, who says he's perfectly willing to part with his secrets if Real slip $200,000 into his back pocket — or any other pocket, come to that.

The mystery continues, and there will be a thigh of relief at Real if Prosinecki is fit by September.

All this allowed Atletico to slip back into a race they had all but abandoned in January. At that stage they were sixth, eight points off the lead.

Jesus Gil had been banned for six months after his umpteenth attack on referees. His son, standing in for him, had been such a valid chip off the old block that he too had been suspended. The Manzanares stadium had been closed after a referee had been hit by a can.

The youth scheme was scrapped for lack of funds. Staff were as much as three months behind on wages. And team manager Luis Aragones seemed inexorably headed for resignation and/or his fifth nervous breakdown.

Since then, reasons have emerged for suspecting that Gil, inadvertently, had stumbled on the recipe for success. Atletico, having taken 25 points out of 30 when they headed for the crucial derby in the Bernabeu stadium, were easily the most consistent side during the second half of the championship.

Rugged

The use of "consistent" rather than "best" is intentional. Much of Atletico's style lacks charm. Aragones, as ever, bases their game on the counter-attack and the meanest of offside traps — the one where the last defender runs out as the through pass is about to be played.

What's more, the defence is so rugged that Sevilla captain Diego was moved to complain: "I'm no angel, but several in the Atletico side are simply hired gunmen".

Statistics reveal that Atletico's striking rate, despite the Herculean efforts of Manolo, who tops the scoring charts, is 20 per cent below those of Real Madrid and Barcelona. At the time of writing they had 82 yellow cards, Barcelona 60 and Real Madrid 51.

The fact is that Atletico have two dazzling jewels and Aragones has protected them with barbed wire.

Bernd Schuster, shielded by two midfield bodyguards, continues to produce vision and distribution that, at 32, he has felt moved to offer his services to the German national team for the first time since 1984.

In front of him, Paulo Futre has enjoyed one of those exceptional seasons when "even if the ball hits me on the backside it somehow seems to end up on my left boot".

His goals can be counted on one hand, but his pace, zest and blinding skills were almost solely responsible for picking Atletico off the rock-bottom they hit in January.

Gil, in the meantime, has been promising everything under the sun in exchange for the title. A holiday in the Seychelles for a start. Or a Rolls-Royce for those who'd prefer one to the £80,000 bonus written into their contracts. Rolls-Royce warn Atletico they might have to wait 12 weeks for delivery. Atletico have not warned Rolls-Royce how long they might have to wait for payment.

Gil, one of the most vociferous campaigners for clubs' conversion into limited companies, hurriedly asked the authorities for a re-think when only four per cent of the Atletico shares found buyers.

Managed

Elsewhere, the most significant news is of new managers for next season. Cruyff's success means that at least five of the 20 First Division clubs will start with Dutch coaches.

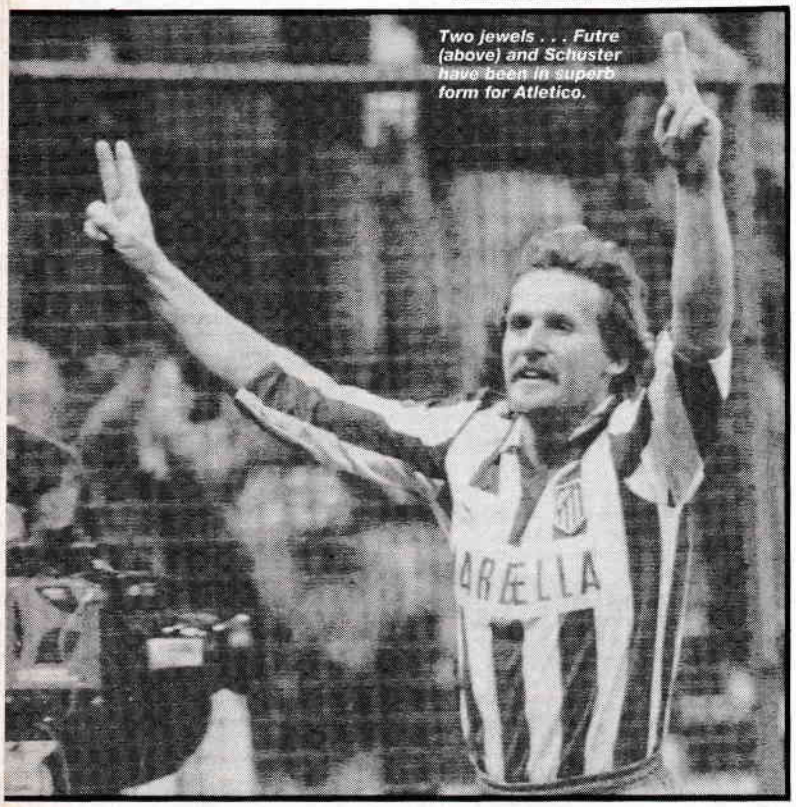
The new arrivals are Theo Vonk (Burgos) and Bert Jacobs (Sporting Gijon). Both moves have raised eyebrows, as neither has risen above the middle reaches of the Dutch League.

Vonk, now 44, played for four clubs and has managed or coached three, including the one he now leaves, FC Twente of Enschede.

Injury forced Jacobs to retire at 23 after spells at Zandvoort and Haarlem, but since then he has been with 10 Dutch clubs and one in Hong Kong, in various capacities. At 51 he now faces the toughest challenge of his career.

Another Dutchman, Guus Hiddink, is plotting to outwit Messrs. Cruyff and Beenhakker next season and take the title to Valencia for the first time since 1971.

With sweeper Ricardo Arias now past his best at 35, Hiddink has invested $6m in Red Star Belgrade's Miodrag Belodedic, who thus follows former Steaua Bucharest colleagues such as Hagi, Balint and Lacatus.



Two jewels . . . Futre (above) and Schuster have been in superb form for Atletico.

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SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

KLABBE JOINS THE CLUB

SWEDEN'S national coach, Tommy Svensson, may need Klas Ingesson (above) to prove his point.

As soon as Svensson took over, after the disaster of Italia '90, he said that Sweden would have to move with the times and change their style. In other words, he wanted a flexible three-man backline with a sweeper, instead of the worn-out "flat" 4-4-2.

But since then there has been one question frequently hanging in the air: who would play as a sweeper?

Glenn Hysen decided to retire, taking with him a bagful of caps and authority unequalled in Sweden.

Hysen never was a classical sweeper, for he excelled in the days of 4-4-2. But a Hysen with younger legs would have been tailor-made for the job.

Since his departure Svensson has been testing and trying, much in the way of the West Germans in the 1970s, when Beckenbauer decided to go for the Yankee dollar.

Freshness

Svensson has profound doubts about the freshness of Hysen's former partner, Peter Larsson. He, like many other Swedish central defenders, is a mere stopper and not inclined to play "free" the way a sweeper should.

In the end, with rumours flying, Svensson decided to play Klas Ingesson at sweeper in a friendly with Tunisia.

Ingesson, the midfielder with a knack of scoring goals. Ingesson, whose current form in Belgium with Mechelen has raised interest among Italian clubs. Ingesson, who created a sensation by replacing the experienced Glenn Stromberg for a World Cup qualifier against England in 1989.

Svensson says that "Klabbe" could make a fine sweeper. "He is strong, active, adapts quickly to the demands of a situation and is able to come forward with the ball."

But then the question marks start to appear. Ingesson is tall but not the best of headers, and he is also a bit slow on the turn.

But Ingesson, the 23-year-old former lumberjack and game hunter from Odeshog, could make the place his own.

LITHUANIA BY ALGIRDAS JASINSKAS

A DRAW IS AS GOOD AS A WIN

Fridrikas (left) and Narbekovas, on target in Belfast.

THE choice of Algis Liubinskas as national team manager of Lithuania was not universally acclaimed, with many supporters hoping that Ben Zelkevicius, coach with Austria Vienna, would get the nod.

But Liubinskas's stock increased immensely following his side's well-merited 2-2 draw with Northern Ireland in Belfast — Lithuania's first World Cup fixture since 1937, and the first they had not lost.

They looked down after conceding two goals in 16 minutes, but clawed their way back through a well-taken goal by Arminas Narbekovas. Then, three minutes after the interval, Robertas Fridrikas let fly with a free-kick from 25 years to score the equaliser.

Fridrikas is known as "Garrincha" by the fans, because he has one leg five centimetres shorter than the other, like the Brazilian of the 50s and 60s.

He and his Austria Vienna team-mates Narbekovas and Ivanauskas were the stars of the show, along with Baranauskas, who also plays in Vienna with Favoritner.

The championship recently resumed following the winter break, with SK Panerys of Vilnius and Ekranas of Panevezio joint leaders.

Zalgiris of Vilnius — most of their former Soviet Supreme League players are now outside the country — are third, with Banga-Granitas.

The leading scorer, Remigijus Pocius, has moved from Granitas of Klaipeda to Sakalas of Siauliai after claiming eight of his team's 16 goals.

Vintage Moller

JAN MOLLER, the former Swedish international goalkeeper, is still going strong.

Moller (right), now 38, is with newly-promoted Trelleborgs FF, having earlier announced his retirement from top-class football. He turned on a brilliant performance as Trelleborg defeated his old club, Malmo, 1-0.

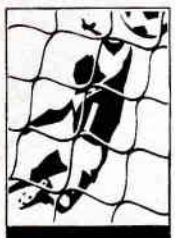
Several experts have rated Moller as the best Swedish goalkeeper of his generation. In the national team, however, he was always second choice behind Thomas Ravelli, mainly because of his professional spells abroad with Bristol City and Toronto Blizzard.

Forwards

Roger Gustafsson, coach of champions IFK Gothenburg, believes that his team are better than ever this season. He says: "We have trained harder and several of our players have lost weight and look much sharper. I expect great things from Johnny Ekstrom and Kaj Eskelinen."

Gothenburg began with a convincing 3-0 win over old foes Malmo, but were later defeated by local rivals Vastra Frolunda. It was another "old pals' act" as IFK were given a runaround in midfield by their former player, Magnus "Lill-Tidan" Johansson.

Bob Houghton's Malmo have had a topsy-turvy start to the season and probably will miss out on the championship once again. Malmo's current side LacK experience, with the loss of established names such as Leif Engqvist and Lasse Larsson.



Results

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: (REST OF WORLD)

EUROPE

Extra-preliminary matches

11.09.90	Liechtenstein v Austria	0-6
16.10.90	Austria v Liechtenstein	10-0

CONCACAF

2 participants to qualify

Caribbean Zone

1st Round

28.10.90	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-3
12.11.90	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-0
21.10.90	Haiti v Cuba	1-1
28.10.90	Cuba v Haiti	2-2
28.10.90	Aruba v St Lucia	3-3
11.11.90	Aruba v St Lucia	0-9
29.10.90	Antigua v Barbados	0-0
11.11.90	Barbados v Antigua	5-0
21.10.90	Dutch Antilles v Surinam	0-1
04.11.90	Surinam v Dutch Antilles	0-0

2nd Round

17.02.91	Barbados v Surinam	0-0
10.03.91	Surinam v Barbados	2-1
24.02.91	Trin. & Tobago v Jamaica	1-0
03.03.91	Jamaica v Trin. & Tobago	1-0
10.03.91	St Lucia v Haiti	1-1
24.03.91	Haiti v St Lucia	2-1

Central Zone

17.03.91	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2
04.04.91	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
17.03.91	Belize v El Salvador	0-2
24.03.91	El Salvador v Belize	3-0

Panama v Costa Rica*

*= Costa Rica suspended from all FIFA competitions with age limit. Panama qualified for 3rd round.

Caribbean Zone

3rd Round

Group winners & best runner-up go through

Group A

01.09.91	Surinam v Mexico	1-1
05.09.91	Honduras v Mexico	1-1
11.09.91	Mexico v Honduras	0-1
16.09.91	Mexico v Surinam	6-0
24.09.91	Honduras v Surinam	2-0
06.10.91	Surinam v Honduras	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Honduras	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Mexico	4	1	2	1	8	3	4
Surinam	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

Group B

05.05.91	Canada v Trin. & Tobago	3-0
12.05.91	El Salvador v Canada	3-1
19.05.91	Trin. & Tobago v Canada	1-3
14.07.91	El Salvador v Trin. & Tobago#	2-0
28.07.91	Trin. & Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
31.08.91	Canada v El Salvador	4-0

#= walkover.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Canada	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
El Salvador	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Trin. & Tobago	4	1	0	3	3	8	2

Group C

23.06.91	United States v Haiti	8-0
14.07.91	Panama v United States	1-1
20.07.91	United States v Panama	7-1
26.08.91	Haiti v United States	0-2
21.09.91	Panama v Haiti	2-2
30.11.91	Haiti v Panama	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	4	3	1	0	18	2	7
Panama	3	0	2	1	4	10	2
Haiti	3	0	1	2	2	12	1

4th Round

03.05.92	Mexico v United States	1-2
05.04.92	Canada v Mexico	1-1
05.04.92	United States v Honduras	4-3
12.04.92	Canada v Honduras	2-2
19.04.92	Honduras v United States	3-4
21.04.92	Mexico v Canada	4-1
26.04.92	United States v Mexico	3-0
26.04.92	Honduras v Canada	1-0
06.05.92	Honduras v Mexico	
10.05.92	United States v Canada	
17.05.92	Mexico v Honduras	
17.05.92	Canada v United States	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	4	4	0	0	13	6	8
Honduras	4	1	1	2	9	10	3
Mexico	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
Canada	4	0	2	2	4	8	2

ASIA

3 participants to qualify

West-Central Asia - 1st Round

Group A

30.08.91	Yemen v Pakistan	1-0
	Qatar v Iran	2-0
06.09.91	Iran v UAE	2-2
	Yemen v Qatar	1-1
13.09.91	Pakistan v Qatar	0-4
	UAE v Yemen	2-1
18.09.91	Yemen v Iran	1-1
	Pakistan v UAE	0-1
23.09.91	Qatar v UAE	2-1
	Iran v Pakistan	5-0
28.09.91	Pakistan v Yemen	0-2
	Iran v Qatar	2-0
04.10.91	UAE v Iran	0-1
	Qatar v Yemen	3-0
09.10.91	Qatar v Pakistan	2-0
	Yemen v UAE	0-0
14.10.91	Iran v Yemen	2-1
	UAE v Pakistan	2-0
20.10.91	UAE v Qatar	0-2
	Pakistan v Iran	0-6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	8	6	1	1	16	4	13
Iran	8	5	2	1	19	6	12
UAE	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Yemen	8	2	3	3	7	9	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	0	23	0

Group B

(Tournament in Hyderabad, India)

04.08.91	Oman v India	1-1
05.08.91	Lebanon v Syria	0-1
07.08.91	Kuwait v Oman	1-0
09.08.91	Syria v Kuwait	1-1
08.08.91	Lebanon v India	3-1
10.08.91	Oman v Lebanon	1-0
11.08.91	Syria v India	1-0
12.08.91	Lebanon v Kuwait	1-2
13.08.91	Oman v Syria	0-0
14.08.91	Kuwait v India	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Kuwait	4	3	1	0	6	3	7
Syria	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
Oman	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Lebanon	4	1	0	3	4	5	2
India	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

Group C

(Tournament in Bahrain)

19.09.91	Bahrain v Sri Lanka	6-0
19.09.91	S. Arabia v Jordan	1-2
22.09.91	Bahrain v Jordan	4-0
23.09.91	Sri Lanka v S. Arabia	1-5
25.09.91	Jordan v Sri Lanka	7-0
	S. Arabia v Bahrain	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bahrain	3	2	0	1	10	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Jordan	3	2	0	1	9	5	4
Sri Lanka	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

East Asia — 1st Round.

Group D

1st Leg (S Korea/Seoul)

18.05.91	S Korea v Philippines	10-0
	Bangladesh v Thailand	2-3
20.05.91	Malaysia v Philippines	5-0
	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-6
22.05.91	Bangladesh v Malaysia	0-1
	Thailand v S Korea	1-2
24.05.91	Thailand v Malaysia	4-1
	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-8
26.05.91	Philippines v Thailand	1-7
	S Korea v Malaysia	0-0

2nd Leg (Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur)

29.06.91	Malaysia v Thailand	1-0
	S Korea v Philippines	7-0
01.07.91	S Korea v Malaysia	2-0
	Thailand v Bangladesh	4-0
03.07.91	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-1
	Philippines v Malayasia	0-5
05.07.91	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-3
	Thailand v S Korea	0-2
07.07.91	Thailand v Philippines	6-0
	Malaysia v Bangladesh	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
S Korea	8	7	1	0	30	1	15
Thailand	8	5	0	3	25	9	10
Malaysia	8	4	1	3	13	7	9
Bangladesh	8	3	0	5	14	15	6
Philippines	8	0	0	8	1	51	0

Group E

1st Leg (N Korea/Pyongyang)

15.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-12
17.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	0-2
	Nepal v Maldives	0-1
19.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	4-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
21.08.91	Nepal v China	0-4
	Maldives v Singapore	1-1
23.08.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-1

2nd Leg

(China/Beijing)

26.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-17
28.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	1-3
	Nepal v Maldives	2-1
30.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	7-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
01.09.91	Nepal v China	0-10
	Maldives v Singapore	2-4
03.09.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
China	8	7	1	0	51	1	15
N Korea	8	6	1	1	27	3	13
Singapore	8	3	1	4	14	16	7
Maldives	8	1	1	6	5	47	3
Nepal	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

Group F

08.06.91	Hong Kong v Taiwan	1-1
09.06.91	Indonesia v Japan	1-2
16.06.91	Indonesia v Taiwan	2-1
	Hong Kong v Japan	3-1
23.06.91	Indonesia v Hong Kong	0-0
	Taiwan v Japan	0-3
29.06.91	Japan v Taiwan	2-0
30.06.91	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
07.07.91	Japan v Hong Kong	3-0
	Taiwan v Indonesia	3-1
13.07.91	Japan v Indonesia	3-1
14.07.91	Taiwan v Hong Kong	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Japan	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Hong Kong	6	2	3	1	6	6	7
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Taiwan	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

2nd Round

(Tournament in Malaysia)

18.01.92	Bahrain v Qatar	0-1
18.01.92	S Korea v Kuwait	1-1
19.01.92	Japan v China	1-2
21.01.92	Bahrain v S Korea	0-1
21.01.92	China v Qatar	0-1
21.01.92	Kuwait v Japan	1-1
24.01.92	Qatar v S Korea	1-0
25.01.92	Kuwait v China	0-1
25.01.92	Japan v Bahrain	6-1
27.01.92	S Korea v Japan	1-0
27.01.92	Bahrain v China	0-3
28.01.92	Qatar v Kuwait	0-3
30.01.92	Japan v Qatar	0-1
30.01.92	China v S Korea	1-3
30.01.92	Kuwait v Bahrain	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	5	4	0	1	4	3	8
S Korea	5	3	1	1	6	3	7
Kuwait	5	2	2	1	8	3	6
China	5	3	0	2	7	5	6
Japan	5	1	1	3	8	6	3
Bahrain	5	0	0	5	1	14	0

Top three qualify for Olympic Games finals in Barcelona.

AFRICA

3 participants to qualify

2nd Round

Group 1

	Mauritius v **Zambia	
10.08.91	Sudan v Egypt	1-2
11.08.91	Mozambique v Uganda	0-1
23.08.91	Egypt v Sudan	2-0
24.08.91	Uganda v Mozambique	3-1
	*Ethiopia v Malawi	
	**Gabon v Cameroon	
	*Angola v Ivory Coast	

Group 2

10.08.91	Tunisia v Senegal	3-1
11.08.91	Algeria v Sierra Leone	0-0
11.08.91	Morocco v Mauritania	6-0
	Liberia* v Togo	
	Ghana v Guinea**	
11.08.91	Zaire* v Zimbabwe	
23.08.91	Mauritania v Morocco	0-0
24.08.91	Sierra Leone v Algeria	1-0
25.08.91	Senegal v Tunisia	1-0
	Togo v Liberia*	
	Zimbabwe v Zaire*	

3rd Round

Group 1

25.10.91	Egypt v Malawi	3-1
26.10.91	Uganda v Cameroon	1-2
09.11.91	Malawi v Egypt	0-0
10.11.91	Cameroon v Uganda	2-0
	Mauritius v Ivory Coast*	

Egypt, Cameroon & Mauritius qualify for 4th Round.

Group 2

27.10.91	Tunisia v Zimbabwe	3-1
27.10.91	Ghana v Sierra Leone	2-1
09.11.91	Sierra Leone v Ghana	2-2
10.11.91	Zimbabwe v Tunisia	5-2
	Togo* v Morocco	

Zimbabwe, Ghana & Morocco qualify for 4th Round.

4th Round

07.02.92	Egypt v Zimbabwe	3-0
08.02.92	Cameroon v Morocco	0-0
08.02.92	Ghana v Mauritius	6-0
23.02.91	Zimbabwe v Egypt	1-1
23.02.91	Morocco v Camercon	0-2
23.02.92	Mauritius v Ghana	1-4

*= Withdrew from tournament.
**= Suspended from tournament.

Egypt, Ghana & Cameroon qualify for Olympic Games finals.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 participant to qualify

1st Round

19.05.91	Australia v Papua NG	4-0
22.05.91	Australia v N.Zealand	2-0
26.05.91	Australia v Fiji	7-0
07.11.91	New Zealand v Fiji	4-0
09.11.91	Papua NG v Fiji	0-2
11.11.91	Papua NG v Australia	0-5
13.11.91	N.Zealand v Australia	1-2
15.11.91	Papua NG v N.Zealand	1-3
16.11.91	Fiji v Australia	0-3
18.11.91	N.Zealand v Papua NG	4-2
20.11.91	Fiji v N.Zealand	0-0
22.11.91	Fiji v Papua NG	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Australia	6	6	0	0	23	1	12
New Zealand	6	3	1	2	12	7	7
Fiji	6	1	2	3	3	15	3
Papua NG	6	0	1	5	2	19	1

Australia qualify for play-off against fifth-placed European team.

SOUTH AMERICA

2 to qualify

Group A

Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

31.01.92	Paraguay v Venezuela	1-0
01.02.92	Brazil v Peru	2-1
03.02.92	Peru v Colombia	1-4
03.02.92	Brazil v Paraguay	1-0
05.02.92	Peru v Venezuela	3-0
05.02.92	Brazil v Colombia	0-2
07.02.92	Colombia v Venezuela	4-0
07.02.92	Paraguay v Peru	7-1
09.02.92	Paraguay v Colombia	0-0
09.02.92	Brazil v Venezuela	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Colombia	4	3	1	0	10	1	7
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	8	2	5
Brazil	4	2	1	1	4	4	5
Peru	4	1	0	3	6	13	2
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Group B

Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador.

02.02.92	Uruguay v Ecuador	0-2
02.02.92	Argentina v Bolivia	1-0
04.02.92	Uruguay v Chile	1-0
04.02.92	Argentina v Ecuador	1-0
06.02.92	Ecuador v Bolivia	4-1
06.02.92	Argentina v Chile	1-1
08.02.92	Uruguay v Bolivia	4-0
08.02.92	Chile v Ecuador	1-5
10.02.92	Chile v Bolivia	Cancelled
10.02.92	Argentina v Uruguay	1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ecuador	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Argentina	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Chile	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Final Round:

12.02.92	Ecuador v Paraguay	0-1
12.02.92	Colombia v Uruguay	3-0
14.02.92	Ecuador v Uruguay	0-1
14.02.92	Colombia v Paraguay	0-1
16.02.92	Paraguay v Uruguay	0-0
16.02.92	Colombia v Ecuador	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
Colombia	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Ecuador	3	0	0	1	1	3	1

Paraguay & Colombia qualify for Olympic Games finals.

EUROPE/OCEANIA PLAY-OFF

17.05.92	Australia v Holland	1-1
24.05.92	Holland v Australia	2-2

Agg. 3-3:Australia qualify on away goals rule

UNDER-21 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The UEFA Under-21 tournament also doubles as the Olympic qualifying tournament with the exception of Scotland, England, San Marino and Luxembourg who do not take part in the Olympics. Spain qualify as hosts.

Quarter-finals

1st leg

10.03.92	Germany v Scotland	1-1
11.03.92	Holland v Sweden	2-1
11.03.92	Denmark v Poland	5-0
11.03.92	Italy v Czechoslovakia	2-1

2nd leg

24.03.92	Scotland v Germany	4-3
25.03.92	Sweden v Holland	1-0
25.03.92	Italy v Czechoslovakia	2-0
25.03.92	Poland v Denmark	1-1

● **Denmark, Italy, Sweden and Poland qualify for Olympic Games finals.**
● ***Holland qualify for play-off with Australia.***

Semi-finals

09.04.92	Denmark v Italy	0-1
22.04.92	Italy v Denmark	2-0
22.04.92	Scotland v Sweden	0-0
29.04.92	Sweden v Scotland	1-0

Third place play-off
Denmark v Scotland
Final
Italy v Sweden

● Note, the semi-finals are for the European Under-21 Championship only and do not affect the Olympic Qualifying tournament.

DRAW FOR THE FINAL TOURNAMENT

First Round

Group A

24.07.92	Italy v United States	***(Barcelona)***
24.07.92	Poland v Kuwait	***(Zaragoza)***
27.07.92	Italy v Poland	***(Barcelona)***
27.07.92	United States v Kuwait	***(Zaragoza)***
29.07.92	Italy v Kuwait	***(Barcelona)***
29.07.92	United States v Poland	***(Zaragoza)***

Group B

26.07.92	Ghana v Holland or Australia	***(Sabadell)***
26.07.92	Denmark v Mexico or Honduras	***(Zaragoza)***
28.07.92	Mexico or Honduras v Holland or Australia	***(Barcelona)***
28.07.92	Denmark v Ghana	***(Zaragoza)***
30.07.92	Mexico or Honduras v Ghana	***(Sabadell)***
30.07.92	Denmark v Holland or Australia	***(Zaragoza)***

Group C

24.07.92	Spain v Colombia	***(Valencia)***
24.07.92	Egypt v Qatar	***(Sabadell)***
27.07.92	Spain v Egypt	***(Valencia)***
27.07.92	Colombia v Qatar	***(Sabadell)***
29.07.92	Spain v Qatar	***(Valencia)***
29.07.92	Colombia v Egypt	***(Sabadell)***

Group D

26.07.92	Sweden v Paraguay	***(Barcelona)***
26.07.92	Morocco v South Korea	***(Valencia)***
28.07.92	Paraguay v South Korea	***(Valencia)***
28.07.92	Sweden v Morocco	***(Sabadell)***
30.07.92	Sweden v South Korea	***(Barcelona)***
30.07.92	Paraguay v Morocco	***(Valencia)***

Quarter-finals

01.08.92	Winner Gp A v Runner-up Gp B	***(Barcelona)***
01.08.92	Winner Gp B v Runner-up Gp A	***(Valencia)***
02.08.92	Winner Gp C v Runner-up Gp D	***(Barcelona)***
02.08.92	Winner Gp D v Runner-up Gp C	***(Zaragoza)***

Semi-finals

05.08.92	Winner q-f 1 v Winner q-f 3	***(Barcelona)***
05.08.92	Winner q-f 2 v Winner q-f 4	***(Valencia)***

Third place play-off

07.08.92	Semi-final losers	***(Barcelona)***

Final

08.08.92	Semi-final winners	***(Barcelona)***

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Apr 4 = St Johns — WC CONCACAF qual
Antigua 1 (Gonsalves 40)
Trinidad and Tobago 2 (Boisson 41, Fleary 79)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000.

Apr 4 = Stanford, Conn — Intl friendly
United States 5 (Perez 12, 75, Wynalda 28, 78, Kinnear 49)
China 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 31,815.
Ref: Garza Ochoa (Mex).
US: Meola — Balboa, Armstrong, Doyle, Savage — Quinn, Michallik (Acosta 72), Sorber (Ibsen 63), Kinnear — Perez (Chung 79), Wynalda (Strouse 82).
China: Chuling — Bo, Quieng (Wetang 46), Yong, Minghua — Chao (Yao Xing 46), Yuxin, Chaoyang, Yijun — Qunli, Sheng (Hongbo 34).
● A record-equalling victory for the Americans which delighted the crowd in one of the newly-designated World Cup venues.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Apr 8 = Bucharest — intl friendly
Romania 2 (Pavel Badea 4, Dan Petrescu 51)
Latvia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Batta (Fra).
Romania: Stelea (Stingaciu 80) — D Petrescu, Sandoi (Mihali 46), Belodedic, Munteanu — Vlaicu, G Popescu, Badea (Moga 62), Dumitrescu (Panait 70) — Lacatus, Raducioiu (Balint 46).
Latvia: Laizans — Troikis, Zemlimski, Spregis, Ivanov (Verpakpovskis 80) — Emilianov, Stradinis, Alexeienko, —More— Popkov (Linars 46) — Teplovs (Sidorovs 46), Drupas (Buldurs 70).
● Latvia achieved an honourable result on their first full international outing for 52 years. "This was a great patriotic moment for us," said Latvia manager Janis Gilis after

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CONTINUED

the Romanian crowd stood in honour of the Latvian anthem. Romania won comparatively easily to celebrate the return to the fold of sweeper Miodrag Belodedic. He had not been back — let alone played for Romania — since seeking asylum from the Ceascescu regime in Belgrade in December, 1988.

Apr 8 = Ankara — intl friendly
Turkey 2 (Hami 35, Hakan 88)
Denmark 1 (Christiansen 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul).
Turkey: Hayrettin — Recep (Oguz 46), Ali, Gokhan, Bulent — Riza, Tugay (Mehmet 79), Unal (Turan 89), Orhan — Hakan, Hami (Aykut 67).
Denmark: Krogh — Risom, Piechnik, Lars Olsen, Andersen — Christofte, John Molby, P Nielsen, Jensen (Elstrup 74) — B Laudrup, B Christensen (Christiansen 86).
● A happy occasion for Turkey manager Sepp Piontek, achieving not only a rare victory for Turkey but one at the expense of his former employers — even if the Danes had a weakened, mainly-home-based team on duty.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Apr 14 = Vienna — intl friendly
Austria 4 (Ogris 21, Prosenik 32, Polster 36, Hasenhuttl 82)
Lithuania 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Lipkovitch (Isr).
Austria: Wohlfarht — Rotter, Zsak, Schottel (Gager 72) — Artner, Stoger, Herzog (Hartmann 61), Flogel, Prosenik — Ogris, Polster (Hasenhuttl 81).
Lithuania: Stauce — Janonis (Pankratjevas 72), Sukristovas, Tautkus (Urbonas 46), Buzmakovas (Vainora 46) — Mazeikas, Narbekovas, Zuta (Fridrikas 46), Baranauskas — Kvitkauskas, Ivanauskas.
● Lithuania were delighted to warm up in Vienna for their return to the World Cup, because three of their men play there for FK Austria. They were not so happy with the result or the performance. Austria let them off lightly.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Apr 15 = Cuiaba — intl friendly
Brazil 3 (Bebeto 57, 80, Paulo Sergio 88)
Finland 1 (Jari Vanhala 39)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Da Costa (Bra).
Brazil: Sergio — Luiz Carlos Winck (Charles), Lira (Roberto Carlos), Marcio Santos, Marcelo, Mauro Silva, Junior, Luiz Henrique (Carlos Dias), Bebeto, Valdier (Renato), Paulo Sergio.
Finland: Laukkanen — Holmgren, Heikkinen, Petaja, Eriksson, Rinne, Litmanen, Myyry, Vuorela (Pasi Tauriainen), Tegelberg (Nyssonen), Vanhala (Suhonen).
● Junior returned to Brazil action for the first time in six years but it was Bebeto, with his two goals, who came to their rescue after Finland snatched a first-half goal and threatened an amazing upset.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Apr 19 = Willemstad/Curacao — WC CONCACAF qual
Dutch Antilles 1 (Giovanni Regales 38)
Antigua 1 (Quentin Clark 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000.
● Antigua gained a draw then demanded a walkover. The match had started 80 minutes late and the Antiguans blamed their hosts for not arranging transport from their hotel.

Apr 19 = Bridgetown — WC CONCACAF qual
Barbados 1 (Tyrone White 55)
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Russell Latape 20, Hudson Charles 66)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Apr 20 = Singapore — Asian Cup, Group 4
China 2 (Wu Qunli 24, Mai Chao 25)
Indonesia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Apr 22 = Brussels — WC Euro gp 4
Belgium 1 (Marc Wilmots 24)
Cyprus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa).
Belgium: Preud'homme — Albert, Grun, Van der Elst — Emmers, Scifo, Walem, Boffin (Borkelmans 82) — Wilmots (Hofmans 75), Degryse, Oliveira.
Cyprus: Christofi — Costa, Pittas, Costas Constantinou, Nicolau — Yiangudakis, Ioannu, Larku (G Constantinou 88) — Sotiriu, Papavasiliu, Gadjilukas (Panayi 70).
● Belgium were jeered off the pitch after a headed goal from Wilmots was all they had to show for their opening World Cup salvo.

Apr 22 = Seville — WC Euro gp 3
Spain 3 (Michel 2, 66 pen, Hierro 87)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Ref: Muhmenthaler (Swz).
Spain: Zubizarreta — Abelardo Fernandez, Nando, Giner, Michel (Eusebio 85), Amor, Hierro, Vizcaino, Manolo (Bakero 53), Butragueno, Goikoetxea.
Albania: Strakosha (Dani 69) — Josa (Pegini 55), B Kola, Lekbello, Aya, Abazi, Kushta, Barballushi, Millo, A Kola, Demollari.
● An error-strewn game was decided by the one player able to rise to a different class, Real Madrid midfielder Michel. He opened the scoring after Vizcaino hit a post then converted a penalty after Manolo was pulled down by Strakosha. Hierro wrapped it up with three minutes remaining after Albania failed to clear a corner.

Apr 22 = Prague — intl friendly
Czechoslovakia 1 (Michal Bilek 43 pen)
Germany 1 (Thomas Hassler 40)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Frost (Isr).
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal — Kocian (Nemecek 15), Kadlec, Chovanec, Glonek, Hapal, Karel Kula (Siegl 78), Kibik (Nemec 67), Bilek, Skuhravy (Dubovsky 78), Kuka.
Germany: Kopke — Binz, Helmer, Buchwald, Worms, Hassler (Moller 81), Effenberg, Thom (Sammer 67), Frontzeck, Voller, Klinsmann.
● Interest centred on how Germany would cope without the injured Lothar Matthaus. In the event they earned a draw from a bright match. Hassler opened the scoring from a free-kick after a trip on Rudi Voller but Bilek quickly equalised from a penalty after Helmer brought down Tomas Skuhravy.
There was heavy security at the Strahov stadium after 27 German fans had been expelled earlier in the day after fighting in the city centre.

Apr 22 = Tunis — intl friendly
Tunisia 0
Sweden 1 (Kennet Andersson 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,000.
Ref: Rachid Medjiba (Tun).
Tunisia: Chorki El Quaer — Khaled Ben Yahia, Mourad Okbi, Kairouan Taoufik Mhedhebi, Sirajeddine Chini, Ali Ben Naji, Samir Sellimi, Faouzi Rouissi, Hatem Ben Belgacem (Samir Nasri 70), Ayadi Hamrouni, Khaled Ben Sassi (Jamel Limam 70).
Sweden: Ravelli — Ingesson, Jan Eriksson (Gren 82), Bjorklund — Peter Eriksson, Rehn, Limpar, Jan Jansson (Kennet Andersson 46), Fursth — Brolin, Pettersson.
● Sweden were relieved to win. They fielded an experimental formation with Klas Ingesson as sweeper but were lucky in the closing minutes when Limam hit the bar with Ravelli beaten.

Apr 22 = Singapore — Asian Cup
Singapore 1 (Razali Saad 14)
Indonesia 2 (Fahri Hussaini 8, Singgih Pitono 84)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Apr 24 = Georgetown — WC CONCACAF qual
Guyana 1 (own goal 43)
Surinam 2 (Stanton 52, Marciano 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Apr 26 = Hamilton — WC CONCACAF qual
Bermuda 1 (Goater 87)
Haiti 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,500.

Apr 26 = St Johns — WC CONCACAF qual
Antigua 3 (Edwards 8, 36, 88)
Dutch Antilles 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Apr 28 = Belfast — WC Euro gp 3
Northern Ireland 2 (Kevin Wilson 13, Gerry Taggart 16)
Lithuania 2 (Arminas Narbekovas 41, Robertas Fridrikas 48)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor).
N Ireland: Fettis — Donaghy (Fleming 46), Taggart, McDonald, Worthington, Black, Magilton, Kevin Wilson, Hughes, Quinn, Dowie (Rogan 80).
Lithuania: Martinkenas — Buzmarkovas, Mika, Janonis, Mazeikis, Tautkas, Urbanas, Fridrikas (Zuta 90), Narbekovas, Baranauskas, Ivanauskas (Danisevicius 89).
● A spirited recovery by Lithuania, playing their first World Cup tie in more than 50 years, meant they surprised even themselves by taking a point off the Irish.

Apr 28 = Bern — intl friendly
Switzerland 0
Bulgaria 2 (Nasko Sirakov 40, Emil Kostadinov 47)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger).
Switzerland: Walker — Herr (Schepull 76), Geiger, Studer, Hottiger (Kunz 77) — Bonvin, A Sutter, Bickel (Rothenbuler 77) — B Sutter, Turkyilmaz, Chapuisat.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Tzvetanov, Iliev, Ivanov, Hubchev — Sirakov (G Iordanov), Balakov, Yankov — Kostadinov (Alexandrov 69), Stoichkov (Kiriakov 75), Penev (I Yordanov 46).
● Bulgaria were surprised how easy it was to win after the lively time Switzerland had in the recent European qualifiers. Sirakov scored the first goal from a free-kick, Kostadinov claimed the second after a solo dash.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Apr 29 = San Salvador — intl friendly
El Salvador 1 (Ulloa 20)
Costa Rica 1 (Davis 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Gamez (El S).
El Salvador: Garcia (Santillana 39) — Abrogo, Trigueros, Mayon Moza (Carcamo 68), Estrada — Castro (Orellana 89), Lazo, Palacios, Manjivar — Ulloa (Gomez 60), Gonzalez.
Costa Rica: Hidalgo — Arnaez (Myers 80), Jimenez, Sanchez, Alfaro — Rowe, Davis, R Gomez (Astua 46), Morales (Quesada 46) — Jara (Driguez 52), Coronado (N Gomez 66).

Apr 29 = Vienna — Intl friendly
Austria 1 (Michael Baur 58)
Wales 1 (Chris Coleman 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 53,000. **Ref:** Piller (Hun).
Austria: Konsel — Zsak, Streiter, Rotter, Prosenik, Stoger, Gager (Baur 46), Herzog (Schottel 80), Flogel, A Ogris (Hasenhuttl 46), Polster.
Wales: Southall — Blackmore, Young (Colemamn 53), Aizlewood, Phillips, Goss (Rees 88), Horne, Hodges (Hall 60), Bowen, Roberts, M Allen (Nogan 76).
● A bumper crowd turned out to see the Welsh beaten out of sight. Instead all Austria had to show was a goal from a free-kick by substitute Baur after a foul on Flogel. Wales equalised just before the end through debutant substitute Coleman, the defender-turned-striker from Crystal Palace.

Apr 29 = Moscow/Lenin-Central — Intl friendly
CIS 2 (Khaber Chadadze 43, Sergei Kiriakov 53)
England 2 (Gary Lineker 14, Trevor Steven 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Werner (Pol).
CIS: Kharin — Chernishov, Chadadze, Tsveiba, Lediakov (Liuti 46), Shalimov, Mikhailichenko, Kanchelskis (Karpin 64), Kolivanov (Kiriakov 46), Mostovoi, Yuran (Onopko 52).
England: Woods (Martyn 79) — Stevens, Sinton (Curle 62), Palmer, Walker, Keown, Platt, Steven (Stewart 77), Shearer (Clough 62), Lineker, Daley.
● An entertaining match finished with honours even and with Gary Lineker within one goal of equalling Bobby Charlton's England record haul of 49 goals. He might have pulled on terms in the 76th but sliced a shot wide from an angle on the right. England's rescuer, after they had conceded the lead to the CIS, was Trevor Steven with his first goal for his country in six years.

Apr 29 = Aarhus — intl friendly
Denmark 1 (Lars Elstrup 59)
Norway 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Roukonen (Fin).
Denmark: Schmeichel — Sivebaek (Brun 58), Piechnik, Nielsen, Larsen (Kristiansen 64) — Jensen, Christofte, J Molby (Nilsen 58) — Poulsen, B Laudrup (Frank 80), Elstrup.
Norway: Grodaas — Lydersen, T Pedersen, Bratseth, Bjornebye — J O Pedersen (Bohinen 65), Leonhardsen (Ingebrigtsen 75), Rekdal (Mykland 46), Jakobsen — Fjortoft, Sorloth.
● The reviving Lars Elstrup scored the only goal of the match as Denmark made amends for their unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Apr 29 = Dublin/Lansdowne Road — intl friendly
Rep. of Ireland 4 (Andy Townsend 47, Denis Irwin 52, Niall Quinn 68, Tony Cascarino 87)
United States 1 (Eric Wynalda 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Piraux (Bel).
Rep. of Ireland: Peyton — Irwin (Milligan 63), McGrath, O'Leary (Carey 73), Morris, McGoldrick, McLaughlin, Townsend, Staunton, Coyne (Aldridge 83), N Quinn (Cascarino 73).
US: Meola — Savage (Ibsen 73), Balboa, Doyle, Clavijo, Armstrong, B Quinn, Perez (Kinnear 70), Harkes, Vermes (Eck 83), Wynalda.
● A makeshift Irish side took half the game to find their feet. Then they proved far too powerful and experienced for the touring Americans. Ireland manager Jack Charlton had words of encouragement, however, for the US. He said: "They have got to be quicker and harder but if this helps teach them then that's good." US coach Bora Milutinovic said: "For the first 45 minutes I was happy. The more games we play, the better we will become."

Apr 29 = Uzhgorod — intl friendly
Ukraine 1 (Ivan Getsko 89)
Hungary 3 (Istvan Salloi 63, Jozsef Kiprich 68, 83 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Youk (Bye).
Ukraine: Kutepov — Luzhni, Nikiforov, Beyenar, Tretiak — Kovalets, Tsimbalar, Chelepnitski — Salenko (Getsko 58), Pogodin (Sak 57), Cherbakov (Gussev 68).
Hungary: Brockhauser (T Balog 87) — Monos, Telek, Simon, Lorincz (E Kovacs 86) — Salloi (Pisont 74), Limperger (Tibor Balog 59), Marton (Illes 83), Lipcsei — Kiprich, Vincze.
● Ukraine's first-ever full international ended in defeat but it was not until the last half hour that the fitter Hungarians established control. Ukraine's historic first international goal was a curing free-kick, delivered in the last minute by Getsko.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Apr 30 = Montevideo — intl friendly
Uruguay 1 (Adriano Paz 70)
Brazil 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Bava (Arg).
Uruguay: Luis Barbat — Ramos, Daniel Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera, Carlos Sanchez, Barrios, Zalazar, Peletti, Guerra, Adriano Paz.
Brazil: Carlos — Luiz Carlos Winck, Celio, Marcio Santos, Roberto Carlos, Mauro, Silva, Junior (Cesar Sampaio), Zinho, Renato (Valdeir), Bebeto (Nilson), Paulo Sergio.
● This was Brazil's first defeat in five matches since the departure of Falcao as manager. They paid a heavy price for missing a string of chances in the first half and Bebeto hit a post in the fifth minute. In the second half Uruguay tightened up. Paz had one shot cleared off the line by Marcio Santos then made no mistake with the winning volley four minutes later.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

May 6 = Bucharest — WC Euro gp 4
Romania 7 (Gavrila Balint 4, 40, 78, Gheorghe Hagi 14, Marius Lacatus 28 pen, Ionut Lupescu 44, Constantin Pana 55)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gre).
Romania: Stelea — Petrescu, Mihali, Popescu, Munteanu — Pana, Balint, Lupescu (Cheregi 78), Hagi — Lacatus (Gane 63), Rotariu.
Faroes: Knudsen — Jakobsen, Tummas Hansen, Danielsen, Justiniussen, Alan Morkore, Jarnskor (Torkil Nielsen 50), Dam (Todi Jonsson 60), Abraham Hansen, Reynheim, Jan Allan Muller.
● No opening surprise for the Faroes to match their victory over Austria at the start of the European qualifiers. Romania, starting with only three home-based players, swamped the islanders from the start. Balint increased his total of international goals 50 per cent — from six to nine, as should befit a man whose football-mad father gave him the middle name of Pele.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

May 7 = Stockholm — intl friendly
Sweden 5 (Kennet Andersson 9, 25, Klas Ingesson 43, Martin Dahlin 62, Stefan Pettersson 67)
Poland 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 9,425. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol).
Sweden: Ravelli — Roland Nilsson, Jan Eriksson, Patrik Andersson, Schwarz — Rehn, Ingesson, Ljung — Dahlin, Kennet Andersson, Pettersson (Ekstrom 78).
Poland: Sidorczuk — R Warzycha, Waldoch, Jegor, Soczynski — Szewczyk, Czachowski, Skrzypczak (Gora 46), Juskowiak (Podbrozny 46) — Kosecki, Ziober.
● Sweden's victory brought relief for the increasing pressured manager, Tommy Svensson, as well as for two-goal striker Kennet Andersson, who badly needed to regain personal confidence after being reduced to the role of substitute by his Belgian club, Mechelen.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

May 12 = Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 0
England 1 (Neil Webb 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Holzman (Aut).
Hungary: Brockhauser — Simon, Telek, Szalma (Kecskes 41), Lorincz, Limperger, Kiprich, E Kovacs, Pisont, Lipcsei (Marton 74), Vincze.
England: Martyn (Seaman 46) — Stevens, Dorigo, Curle (Sinton 46), Walker, Keown, Webb (Batty 69), Palmer, Merson (Smith 46), Lineker (Ian Wright 69), Daley.
● In a match of many substitutes skipper Gary Lineker created the winning goal for Webb and stretched England's unbeaten run to six matches. Hungary looked dangerous early on but once England had switched from a three-man defence to the orthodox four-man version the hosts were never as threatening again.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

May 13 = Athens — WC Euro gp 5
Greece 1 (Panayotis Sofianidis 28)
Iceland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Ref: Assenmacher (Ger).
Greece: Theologis Papadopulos — Apostolakis, Kalitzakis, Manolas, Nitsibonas, Yotis Tsaluhidis, George Tsaluhidis, Sofianopulos, Tursunidis (Noplias 77), Alexandria, Tsiantakis (Borbokis 60).
Iceland: B Kristinsson — Kr Jonasson, Marteinsson (Magnusson 74), Valsson, Bergsson, K Jonasson, Gudjohnsen, Bjarnasson, Gretarsson, Sverisson, R Kristinsson.
● Sofianopulos headed the only goal after a header from Kalitzakis hit a post. But Iceland flew home believing themselves unlucky not to have taken a point. A Marteinsson drive was well stopped by Papadopulos just before half-time and Iceland controlled play in the early stages after the interval.

May 13 = Oslo — intl friendly
Norway 2 (Sorloth 26, Bohinen 63)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000.
● Norway, beaten previously by Denmark, regained a modicum of confidence with this victory. The hosts were without Tottenham keeper Erik Thorstvedt, recovering from a knee operation.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

May 14 = Helsinki — WC Euro gp 6
Finland 0
Bulgaria 3 (Balakov 16, Kostadinov 25, 85)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Colik (Yug).
Finland: Huttunen — Pertaja, Holmgren, Heikkinen, Eriksson, Rinne (Huhtamaeki 76), Litmanen, Myyry, Jarvinen, Vanhala (Tegelberg 60), Tarkkio.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Ivanov, Tzvetanev, Iliev, Hubchev, Sirakov, Yankov, Stoichkov (Yordanov 69), Penev, Balakov, Kostadinov.
● Bulgaria opened their World Cup qualifying campaign confidently thanks to goals from two of their Portuguese-based exiles.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

May 17 = Wembley — intl friendly
England 1 (David Platt 55)
Brazil 1 (Bebeto 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000.
Ref: McCluskey (Sco).
England: Woods — Stevens, Dorigo (Pearce 72), Palmer, Walker, Keown, Daley (Merson 72), Steven (Webb 46), Platt, Lineker, Sinton (Rocastle 46).
Brazil: Carlos — Luiz Carlos Winck (Charles 46), Mozer, Ricardo Gomes, Mauro Silva, Branco, Bebeto, Luiz Henrique (Valdeir 74), Renato (Junior 78), Rai, Valdo (Paulo Sergio 72).
● Gary Lineker missed a tenth-minute penalty chance to equal Bobby Charlton's goals record and was little in evidence after that. It was left to new striking partner Platt, early in the second half, to effect a rescue after a Gary Stevens mistake had presented Bebeto with Brazil's 20th-minute goal.

May 17 = Denver — Intl friendly
United States 0
Scotland 1 (Pat Nevin 7)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Escobar (Guat).
US: Keller — Balboa, Armstrong, Doyle, Clavijo, Michallik (Gibson 71), Quinn, Henderson, Perez, Kinnear, Wynalda.
Scotland: Marshall — McKimmie, McPherson (Whyte 82), Malpas, McLaren, McStay (McInally 68), McCall, McAllister, McClair, McCoist (Bowman 76), Nevin (Ferguson 50).
● Everton's transfer-bound Pat Nevin shot himself into Scotland's squad for the European finals in Sweden with the goal which brought victory in the heat of Colorado.

OTHER MATCHES

Apr 28 ***(in Moscow):*** **CIS B 1** (Mamedeov 63), **England B 1** (Smith 5).
May 3 ***(in Seoul):*** **S Korea Oly 2** (Shin Tae-young 20, Roh Jung-yoon 52), **Australia Oly 1** (Seal 50).
May 12 ***(in Vac):*** **Hungary U-21 2** (Hamor 46, Horvath 67), **England U-21 2** (B. Allen 22, Cole 20).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-finals
1st legs
Denmark 0, Italy 1 (Buso 20) *(in Aalborg)*
Scotland 0, Sweden 0 *(in Aberdeen)*
2nd legs
Italy 2 (Buso 54, Muzzi 79), **Denmark 0** *(in Perugia)*
Italy win 3-0 on agg
Sweden 1 (Rodlund 81), **Scotland 0** *(in Orebro)*
Sweden win 1-0 on agg

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 12 APRIL

AUSTRIA — PLAY OFFS

Midweek
Austria Wien 3 (Narbekovas 20,20, Hasenhuttl 35), **St Polten 1** (Vorderegger 73). **Att:** 2,500.
FC Tirol 2 (Pos 25, Gussnig 88), **Admira Wacker 0. Att:** 4,000.
Vorwarts Steyr 1 (Novak 69), **Rapid Wien 0. Att:** 6,000.
Stahl Linz 1 (Metzier 84), **Austria Salzburg 2** (Hristic 59, Sabitzer 70). **Att:** 10,000.

Weekend
Admira Wacker 3 (Ljung 13, Kuhbauer 53, Marschall 84), **Stahl Linz 1** (Imrekov 81). **Att:** 1,000.
St Polten 1 (Vorderegger 2), **Vorwarts Steyr 4** (Kogler 3, Heraf 37, Krinner 60, Waldhor 79). **Att:** 3,000.
Rapid Wien 4 (Herzog 22, Fjortoft 42,83, Gager 48), **FC Tirol 0. Att:** 10,000.
Austria Salzburg 1 (Fekerlioglu 33 o.g.), **Austria Wien 1** (Flogel 31). **Att:** 15,000.

BELGIUM Midweek

Cup — Quarter-finals, 2nd leg
St. Niklaas 0 v 2 Gent
Gent win 4-1 on agg
Standard 5 v 1 Aalst
Standard win 6-1 on agg
Mechelen 2 v 1 Beveren
Mechelen win 2-1 on agg

Weekend
Anderlecht 2 (Bosman 32, Oliveira 75), **Charleroi 0. Att:** 10,000.
Club Brugge 3 (Cossey 13, Beyens 38, Dziubinski 68), **Beveren 1** (Van Vossen pen 79). **Att:** 9,000.
Lierse 0, Waregem 0. Att: 4,500.
Antwerp 3 (Van Rethy 19, Lehnhoff 32, Czerniatysnki 35), **Cercle Brugge 2** (Weber 29, 80). **Att:** 5,000.
Gent 1 (Van der Linden 89), **Standard 0. Att:** 9,000.
Genk 5 (Vandeurzen 15, Antwaldo 39, Van der Aalst 63, Busuttil 68, Goors 70), **Lokeren 0. Att:** 6,000.
FC Liege 2 (Kpebe 52, 78), **Ekeren 7** (Vandersmissen 5, Hofmans 26, 37, 74, 82, Herreman 43, Schmoller 77). **Att:** 5,000.
Kortrijk 0, Mechelen 0. Att: 3,000.
Aalst 1 (Krohm 47), **Molenbeek 0. Att:** 6,000.

ENGLAND Weekend

League Cup — Final
Nottingham Forest 0, Manchester Utd 1

Midweek
Coventry City 0, Sheffield Weds. 0. Att: 13,293.
Liverpool 2 (Thomas 8, Rosenthal 44), **Wimbledon 3** (Sanchez 35, Clarke 65, Fashanu pen 72). **Att:** 26,134.
Notts Co. 0, Tottenham 2 (Lineker 32, 51). **Att:** 9,205.
Norwich City 1 (Butterworth 59), **Arsenal 3** (Wright pen 33, 82, Campbell 46). **Att:** 12,971.
Manchester Utd 1 (Giggs 20), **Manchester City 1** (Curle pen 62). **Att:** 46,781.

Weekend
Arsenal 4 (Merson 9, 18, 64, Campbell 16), **Crystal Palace 1** (Coleman 8). **Att:** 36,016.
Aston Villa 1 (Daley 66), **Liverpool 0. Att:** 35,756.
Everton 0, Sheffield Utd 2 (Bryson 29, Cork 66). **Att:** 18,286.
Leeds Utd 3 (Wallace 55, Chapman 87, Cantona 89), **Chelsea 0. Att:** 31,363.
Notts Co. 1 (Sansom o.g. 66), **Coventry City 0. Att:** 6,655.
Oldham Ath. 5 (Sharp 11, 26, 60, 87, Milligan 83), **Luton Town 1** (Harford 25). **Att:** 13,210.
QPR 1 (Sinton 26), **Tottenham 2** (Gray 71, Durie 79). **Att:** 20,678.
Sheffield Weds. 2 (Hirst 55, Worthington 87), **Manchester City 0. Att:** 32,138.
West Ham Utd 4 (Rush 14, 36, Dicks pen 72, Bishop 90), **Norwich City 0. Att:** 16,896.

FRANCE Midweek

Cup — 5th round
Valenciennes 0, Marseille 2
Cannes 2, Montpellier 1
Ajaccio 2, St Etienne 1
Nancy 2, Bourges 1
Caen 0, Pau 0
Caen won on penalties
St. Omer 2, Monaco 4
Red Star 2, Guingamp 1
Nice 0, Bastia 1

Weekend
Nantes 1 (Ziani 45), **Monaco 4** (Djorkaeff pen 65, pen 84, 85, Rui Barros 67). **Att:** 12,000.
Toulouse 3 (Bancarel 45, Ferrer 52, Pavon 60), **Paris SG 0. Att:** 6,026.
Sochaux 0, Rennes 0. Att: 4,000.
Nimes 1 (Bernardet 6), **Toulon 0. Att:** 9,571.
St. Etienne 1 (Mendy 47), **Lille 1** (Sauvaget 78). **Att:** 17,630.
Lens 4 (Sikora pen 10, Roger Boli 38, Laigle 54, El Hadaoui 78), **Lyon 2** (Bouafia 48, Bouderbala 86). **Att:** 18,000.
Metz 1 (Calderaro pen 57), **Caen 2** (Germain 33, Rio 82). **Att:** 6,481.
Auxerre 3 (Cocard 18, Baticle 36, 52), **Cannes 1** (Fernandez 56). **Att:** 9,000.
Marseille 0, Montpellier 0. Att: 35,000.
Le Havre 1 (Garande 41), **Nancy 2** (Sechet 3, Vairelles 21). **Att:** 7,566.

GERMANY Midweek

Cup — semi-finals
Borussia Mg. 2, Bayer Leverkusen 2
Borussia Mg. win on pens
Hannover 1, Werder Bremen 1
Hannover win on pens

Weekend
Hansa Rostock 2 (Bodden 12, Weichert 60), **Schalke 0. Att:** 13,000.
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Rummenigge 19, Franck 59, Chapuisat 82), **Bayern Munich 0. Att:** 52,616.
Fortuna D. 1 (Drazic 26), **Stutt. Kickers 3** (Marin 10, 40, Moutas 80). **Att:** 5,000.
Karlsruher SC 1 (Carl 13), **VfL Bochum 1** (U. Wegmann 23). **Att:** 13,500.
VfB Stuttgart 2 (Sammer 22, 35), **Nurnberg 0. Att:** 50,000.
Borussia Mg. 1 (Criens 41), **Eintracht Frankfurt 1** (Sippel 62). **Att:** 30,000.
Werder Bremen 2 (M. Bode 42, Eilts 82), **Dynamo Dresden 0. Att:** 11,000.
Wattenscheid 1 (Rohde 45), **Hamburg SV 1** (Fink 77). **Att:** 8,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Buncol 4, Thom 14, Kirsten 56), **Kaiserslautern 0. Att:** 15,000.
MSV Duisburg 1 (Steiniger 88), **Koln 3** (Baumann pen 74, Steinmann 77, H. Fuchs 90). **Att:** 22,000.

GREECE Weekend

Serres 1, Korinthos 2
Anthinaikos 0, Pierikos 0
Xanthi 2, Apollon 1
Ethnikos 2, Larissa 0
Doxa Drama 0, PAOK 0
Aris Salonika 0, Heraklis 0
Panionios 1, Olympiakos 4
AEK Athens 5, Panachaiki 1
OFI Crete 0, Panathinaikos 2

HOLLAND Weekend

De Graafschap 3 (Kraay 50, Koolhof 65, 88), **Volendam 0. Att:** 7,260.
Fortuna Sittard 0, SVV/Dordrecht 0. Att: 4,000.
PSV 3 (Popescu 6, Kalusha 51, Ellerman 74), **Willem II 0. Att:** 26,350.
RKC 1 (Van Hoogdalem 20), **MVV 1** (Visser 53). **Att:** 2,500.
Groningen 1 (Djurovski 8), **Feyenoord 0. Att:** 15,946.
Utrecht 1 (Van der Ark 76), **Vitesse 1** (Van Arum 39). **Att:** 4,500.
Twente 2 (Ronald de Boer 7, Mulder 19), **VVV 1** (Babangida 79). **Att:** 3,900.
Sparta 4 (Vurens pen 13, Van der Berg 24, Verhagen o.g. 48, Sandel 78), **Roda JC 0. Att:** 2,500.
Ajax 3 (Kreek 17, Pettersson pen 35, 52), **Den Haag 2** (Van Ejkeren pen 29, Valk 78). **Att:** 16,414.

ITALY Weekend

Juventus 1 (Baggio pen 53), **Ascoli 0. Att:** 30,000.
Lazio 1 (Stroppa 56), **Fiorentina 1** (Branca 90). **Att:** 34,800.
Atalanta 4 (Consagra o.g. 37, Cornacchia 73, 83, 87), **Foggia 4** (Baiano 39, Minaudo o.g. 46, Shalimov 58, Rambaudi 70). **Att:** 20,000.
Cagliari 1 (Gaudenzi 46), **Genoa 1** (Ruotolo 65). **Att:** 25,000.
Cremonese 1 (Iacobelli 75), **Milan 1** (Bonomi o.g. 41). **Att:** 17,000.
Bari 1 (Platt 22), **Napoli 3** (Zola 47, Belucci o.g. 54, Alemao 90). **Att:** 40,000.
Internazionale 0, Parma 0. Att: 38,500.
Sampdoria 1 (Silas 90), **AS Roma 1** (Giannini 87). **Att:** 27,000.
Verona 1 (Raducioiu 43), **Torino 2** (Scifo 30, Lentini 78). **Att:** 24,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Uniao Madeira 2, FC Porto 2
Boavista 1, Maritimo 0
Vitoria Guimaraes 1, Estoril 1
Beira-Mar 0, Famalicao 0
Benfica 2, Braga 0
Farense 0, Sporting 2
Gil Vicente 2, Torreense 1
Penafiel 1, Chaves 0
Salgueiros 0 Pacos Ferreira 0

SCOTLAND Midweek

Hibernian 0, Airdrie 2 (Conn 45, Lawrence 85). **Att:** 3,269.
Motherwell 0, Hearts 1 (Robertson 32). **Att:** 4,502.
Rangers 4 (McCoist 12, 29, 73, Michailichenko 87), **Falkirk 1** (Sloan 20). **Att:** 36,832.
St Johnstone 0, Aberdeeen 0. Att: 4,524.
St Mirren 1 (Hewitt 6), **Celtic 1** (Boyd 54). **Att:** 6,000.

Weekend
Aberdeen 2 (Grant 14, Kane 33), **Motherwell 0. Att:** 7,000.
Airdrie 3 (Boyle 51, Conn 72 Kirkwood pen 79), **Dunfermline 2** (McWilliams 17, Moyes 21). **Att:** 3,000.
Celtic 3 (Fulton 34, Nicholas 46, 75), **St Johnstone 2** (Redford 47, Cherry 52). **Att:** 13,236.
Dundee Utd 1 (McInally 59), **Rangers 2** (Michailichenko 50, Brown 67). **Att:** 11,391.
Falkirk 2 (Smith 5, Baptie 86), **Hibernian 3** (Hamilton 11, Donald 27, McIntyre 36). **Att:** 3,735.
Hearts 0, St Mirren 0. Att: 6,200.

SPAIN Weekend

Albacete 3 (Zalazar pen 40, 75, Etcheverry 79), **La Coruna 0. Att:** 15,000.
Burgos 2 (Balint 29, 52), **Logrones 0. Att:** 11,000.
Mallorca 0, Real Madrid 0. Att: 28,000.
Espanol 2 (Luis 72, Francisco 81), **Sporting Gijon 0. Att:** 20,000.
Real Sociedad 2 (Fuentes 8, Kodro 75), **Sevilla 1** (Ramon 22). **Att:** 10,175.
Zaragoza 1 (Gay 9), **Athletic Bilbao 0. Att:** 18,000.
Oviedo 2 (Cesar Esteban o.g. 29, Carlos pen 69), **Valladolid 1** (Santi Aragon 84). **Att:** 17,434.
Atletico Madrid 5 (Monolo 38, 41, 51, 76, Sabas 84), **Cadiz 1** (Tilico 79). **Att:** 50,000.
Osasuna 2 (Arozarena 10, Martin Dominguez 35), **Tenerife 0. Att:** 18,000.
Valencia 1 (Fernando 44), **Barcelona 0. Att:** 40,000.

SWITZERLAND — PLAY-OFFS

Midweek
FC Zurich 1 (Sotomayor 45), **Neuchatel Xamax 3** (Bonvin 16, 39, Cravero 82). **Att:** 4,100.
St Gallen 0, Servette 2 (Dobrovolcki 48, 81). **Att:** 6,900.
Lausanne Sports 1 (Herr 45), **Grasshoppers 1** (Elber 71). **Att:** 10,300.
Young Boys 4 (Bregy pen 28, Gross 44, Lunz 78, 90), **Sion 1** (Baljic 38). **Att:** 6,300.

Weekend
Servette 1 (Schepull 59), **Neuchatel Xamax 1** (Bonvin 56). **Att:** 7,500.
FC Zurich 2 (Sesa 59, Moro 66), **St Gallen 1** (Besio 19). **Att:** 3,900.
Young Boys 2 (Bohinen 28, Verlaat o.g. 63), **Lausanne Sports 0. Att:** 6,900.
Sion 3 (Manfreda 3, 48, Rey 19), **Grasshoppers 1** (Elber 25). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 19 APRIL

AUSTRIA Weekend

Cup — quarter-finals
Austria Wien 6, Austria Salzburg 0
Grazer AK 2, FC Tirol 1
Admira Wacker 2, Sturm Graz 0
Favoritner 2, Stahl Linz 1

BELGIUM Weekend

Cup — quarter-final, 2nd leg
Antwerp 2 v 0 Lommel
Antwerp win 2-1 on agg

ENGLAND Midweek

Cup — semi-final, replay
Portsmouth 0, Liverpool 0
Liverpool win on pens

League
Luton Town 2 (Harford 12, James 24), **Nottingham Forest 1** (Black 2). **Att:** 8,014.
Sheffield Utd 2 (Deane 30, 44), **Tottenham Hotspur 0. Att:** 21,520.
West Ham Utd 0, Southampton 1 (Adams 88). **Att:** 18,298.
Manchester Utd 1 (Kanchelskis 64), **Southampton 0. Att:** 42,000.

Weekend
Chelsea 2 (Clarke 44, Wise pen 47), **QPR 1** (Allen 89). **Att:** 18,952.
Coventry City 0, Everton 1 (Beagrie 76). **Att:** 14,669.
Crystal Palace 0, Oldham Athletic 0. Att: 12,267.
Liverpool 0, Leeds Utd 0. Att: 37,186.
Luton Town 1 (Harford 50), **Manchester Utd 1** (Sharpe 24). **Att:** 13,410.
Manchester City 2 (Pointon 2, Clarke 77), **West Ham Utd 0. Att:** 25,601.
Norwich City 0, Notts County 1 (Matthews 86). **Att:** 12,100.
Nottingham Forest 2 (Gemmill 14, Sheringham 61), **Aston Villa 0. Att:** 22,800.
Sheffield Utd 1 (Davison 26), **Arsenal 1** (Campbell 58). **Att:** 25,034.
Southampton 0, Sheffield Weds. 1 (Hirst 70), **Att:** 17,715.
Tottenham 3 (Lineker 5, 11, Hendry 76), **Wimbledon 2** (Sanchez 1, Earle 84). **Att:** 23,934.

FRANCE Weekend

Montpellier 2 (Divert 83, Thetis 89), **Le Havre 2** (Roux 70, Bertin 76). **Att:** 12,000.
Monaco 0, Marseille 3 (Boli 45, Papin pen 45, Pele 90). **Att:** 20,000.
Caen 2 (Dumas 14, Gravelaine 82), **Nimes 0. Att:** 7,426.
Toulon 1 (Pineda 31), **Metz 1** (Cartier 55). **Att:** 8,000.
Rennes 1 (Turban 67), **Toulouse 1** (Bancarel 56). **Att:** 7,043.
Paris SG 0, St Etienne 0. Att: 36,641.
Lille 1 (Leclerq 63), **Lens 2** (El Haddaoui 57, Sikora pen 59). **Att:** 15,509.
Lyon 1 (Bouderbala 75), **Auxerre 0. Att:** 16,000.
Nancy 3 (Sechet pen 39, 61, Zitelli 70), **Sochaux 1** (Caveglia pen 85). **Att:** 8,987.
Cannes 2 (Omam Biyik 3, Zidane 30), **Nantes 0. Att:** 3,500.

GERMANY Weekend

VfL Bochum 2 (Dressel 54, Heinemann pen 89), **Werder Bremen 2** (M. Bode 49, Rufer 70). **Att:** 15,000.
Dynamo Dresden 2 (Kmetsch 50, Zander 82), **Hansa Rostock 1** (Spies 47). **Att:** 13,000.
Stutt. Kickers 0, Borussia Dortmund 1 (Rummenigge 52). **Att:** 22,000.
Nurnberg 2 (Zarate pen 44, 78), **Borussia Mg 1** (Criens 48). **Att:** 43,000.
Kaiserslautern 2 (Kranz 68, 70), **MSV Duisburg 1** (Nijhuis 13). **Att:** 30,241.
E. Frankfurt 1 (Binz 15), **Wattenscheid 1** (Tschiskale 83). **Att:** 19,000.
Schalke 0, Fortuna D. 0. Att: 31,900.
Koln 2 (Giske 46, 55), **Karlsruher SC 3** (Rolff 24, Kneg 31, Reich 66). **Att:** 13,000.
Hamburg SV 1 (Cyron 77) **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Herrlich 53). **Att:** 27,300.
Bayern Munich 1 (Effenberg 44), **VfB Stuttgart 0. Att:** 65,000.

GREECE Weekend

Pierikos 2, Korinthos 1
Serres 2, Apollon 1
Athinaikos 3, Larissa 3
Xanthi 2, PAOK 1
Ethnikos 2, Heraklis 0
Doxa Drama 0, Olympiakos 0
Aris Salonika 2, Panachaiki 1
Panionios 0, Panathinaikos 0
AEK Athens 3, OFI Crete 0

HOLLAND Midweek
VVV 1 (Orie pen 45), **Sparta 3** (Vurens 19, 66, Teeuwen o.g. 90). **Att:** 1,230.
MVV 3 (Meijer 15, 26, Visser 42), **Groningen 3** (Olde Riekerink 29, Djurovski 53, Van Duren 64). **Att:** 4,000.

Weekend
PSV 5 (Vanenburg 6, 81, Romario 46, Kieft 63, 87), **RKC 0. Att:** 25,450.
SVV/Dordrecht 1 (Jan Mulder 2), **FC Twente 0. Att:** 1,032.
Feyenoord 3 (Kiprich 20, Heus 46, Blinker 90), **De Graafschap 0. Att:** 12,795.
Willem II 0, Groningen 0. Att: 5,500.
VVV 0, MVV 4 (Meijer 34, Hofman 78, Visser 86, Thai 90). Att:2,429.
Vitesse 0, Fortuna Sittard 1 (Boogers 35). **Att:** 4,000.

ITALY Midweek

Cup — semi-final, 2nd leg
Juventus 1, Milan 0
Juventus win 1-0 on agg

Weekend
Parma 0, Atalanta 0. Att: 22,000.
Genoa 1 (Skuhravy 36), **Bari 3** (Carbone 32, Soda 43, Boban 80). **Att:** 28,000.
Ascoli 1 (Cavaliere pen 35), **Cagliari 3** (Napoli 16, Francescoli 55, Criniti 81). **Att:** 7,000.
Fiorentina 1 (Malusci 79), **Cremonese 1** (Iacobelli 39). **Att:** 26,084.
Milan 1 (Massaro 90), **Internazionale 0. Att:** 85,000.
AS Roma 1 (Rizzitelli 57), **Juventus 1** (Baggio 73). **Att:** 60,462.
Napoli 3 (Blanc 25, Careca 57, 81), **Lazio 0. Att:** 44,362.
Torino 1 (Casagrande 16), **Sampdoria 1** (Katanec 39). **Att:** 25,000.
Foggia 5 (Rambaudi 24, 43, Baiano 64, pen 85, 90), **Verona 0. Att:** 19,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Estoril 1, Sporting 1
FC Porto 2, Penafiel 1
Benfica 1, Farense 1
Pacos Ferreira 1, Boavista 1
Torreense 1, Vitoria Guimaraes 1
Famalicao 2, Uniao Madeira 0
Chaves 2, Salgueiros 0
Braga 2, Beira-Mar 1
Maritimo v Gil Vicente — ***postponed***

SCOTLAND Midweek

Cup — semi-final, replay
Hearts 1, Airdrie 1
Airdrie won on pens

Weekend
Airdrie 0, Celtic 0. Att: 9,000.
Dundee Utd 2 (Malpas 22, Ferguson 89), **Hearts 0. Att:** 6,711.
Dunfermline 3 (French 42, Sinclair 46, McWilliams 67), **Motherwell 1** (Arnott 75). **Att:** 2,310.
Falkirk 2 (Baptie 40, 42), **St Johnstone 0. Att:** 3,600.
Hibernian 1 (Donald 85), **Aberdeen 1** (Paatelainen 73). **Att:** 7,500.
Rangers 4 (McCoist 19, 71, Stevens 46, Huistra 79), **St Mirren 0. Att:** 40,362.

SPAIN Weekend

Barcelona 7 (Bakero 11, 89, Stoichkov 17, 62, 67, 76, Koeman pen 72), **Albacete 1** (Zalazar 80). **Att:** 45,000.
La Coruna 2 (Fran 36, Claudio 68), **Burgos 2** (Balint 80, pen 87). **Att:** 20,000.
Logrones 2 (Polster 25, Garcia Pitarch 34), **Mallorca 1** (Milojevic 73). **Att:** 9,500.
Real Madrid 7 (Eloy o.g. 8, Butragueno 13, Hierro 45, 54, 55, pen 59, Hagi 65), **Espanol 0. Att:** 60,000.
Sporting Gijon 0, Real Sociedad 1 (Alkiza 21). **Att:** 15,000.
Sevilla 3 (Suker 27, Ramon 51, Zamorano 67), **Zaragoza 0. Att:** 30,000.
Athletic Bilbao 0, Oviedo 0. Att: 25,000.
Valladolid 0, Atletico Madrid 1 (Manolo 16). **Att:** 17,000.
Cadiz 2 (Quico 49, Tilico 79), **Osasuna 2** (Urban 67, Arozarena 90). **Att:** 9,000.
Tenerife 2 (Felipe 32, Pier 68), **Valencia 1** (Rommel 82). **Att:** 20,000.

SWITZERLAND Midweek

Cup — 5th round
Young Boys 0, Lausanne Sports 1
FC Luzern 2, Tuggen 0
Grasshoppers 1, Malley 0
Servette 3, Yverdon 0
Sion 4, Kusnacht 0
Wettingen 3, Kriens 0
Basel 5, Bern 1
Lugano 3, Baden 0

Weekend (League)
Neuchatel Xamax 5 (Sutter 22, Chassot 45, Gottardi 79, Mottiez 82, 87), **Servette 1** (Molnar 23). **Att:** 14,800.
St Gallen 1 (Gambino 20), **FC Zurich 1** (Studer 44). **Att:** 6,500.
Grasshoppers 0, Sion 1 (Manfreda 87). **Att:** 9,700.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 26 APRIL

AUSTRIA — PLAY OFFS

Midweek
St Polten 1 (Rotter 74), **FC Tirol 2** (Westerthaler 20, 45). **Att:** 3,000.
Stahl Linz 0, Austria Wien 1 (Narbekovas 85). **Att:** 6,000.
Austria Salzburg 2 (Hristic 4, 59), **Vorwarts Steyr 0. Att:** 9,000.
Rapid Wien 0, Admira Wacker 0. Att: 5,000.

Weekend
Austria Wien 4 (Ivanauskas 20, Stoger 40, Ogris 58, 82), **Stahl Linz 0. Att:** 5,000.
FC Tirol 3 (Bauer 18, Westerhaier 78, Wazinger 82), **St Polten 0. Att:** 2,500.
Vorwarts Steyr 0, Austria Salzburg 2 (Jurcevic 61, Sabitzer 83). **Att:** 7,000.
Admira Wacker 3 (Marschall 13, 86, Abfalterer 53), **Rapid Wien 1** (Rodax 24). **Att:** 7,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

Mechelen 0, Anderlecht 0. Att: 13,200.
Charleroi 4 (Malbasa 37, Zetterberg 39, Wuyts 76, 85), **Aalst 0. Att:** 4,500.
Beveren 0, Liege 4 (Varga 51, 79, Ikpeba 54, Kruzen 81). **Att:** 4,000.
Standard 2 (Van Rooij pen 70, Vos 79), **Antwerp 0. Att:** 18,000.
Gent 2 (Viscaal 13, Vandenbergh 76), **Genk 0. Att:** 5,000.
Cercle Brugge 1 (Tipuric 14), **Kortrijk 0. Att:** 2,000.
Molenbeek 2 (Lorincz 18, Van Ankeren 25), **Lierse 2** (Van Kerckhoven 1, Boonen 38). **Att:** 5,000.
Waregem 1 (Teppers pen 11), **Club Brugge 2** (Amokachi 21, 56). **Att:** 11,000.
Ekeren 3 (Hofmans 37, Verstraeten 47, Schmoller 90), **Lokeren 1** (Taibi 59). **Att:** 3,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

Arsenal 4 (Hillier 7, Wright 17,48, Limpar 41), **Liverpool 0. Att:** 38,517.
Aston Villa 3 (Staunton 32, McGrath 65, Parker 90), **Chelsea 1** (Sinclair 51). **Att:** 19,269.
Everton 1 (Nevin 11), **Manchester City 2** (Quinn 2, 22). **Att:** 21,101.
Leeds Utd 2 (Fairclough 53, McAllister pen 80), **Coventry City 0. Att:** 26,582.
Manchester Utd 1 (McClair 36), **Nottingham Forest 2** (Woan 33, Gemmill 82). **Att:** 45,576.
Notts Co. 1 (Bartlett 6), **Sheffield Utd 3**

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(Beesley 45, Hodges 53, Davison 60). **Att:** 12,605.
Oldham Athletic 1 (Henry 40), **Tottenham 0. Att:** 15,443.
QPR 2 (Ferdinand 80, 83), **Luton Town 1** (Pembridge pen 65). **Att:** 10,749.
Sheffield Weds. 2 (Nilsson 10, Sheridan 44), **Norwich 0. Att:** 27,362.
West Ham Utd 0, Crystal Palace 2 (Bright 26, Coleman 64). **Att:** 17,710.
Wimbledon 0, Southampton 1 (Hall 24). **Att:** 4,025.

West Ham Utd 1 (Brown 66), **Manchester Utd 0. Att:** 24,197.
Nottingham Forest 1 (Sheringham pen 27), **Liverpool 1** (Rush 40). **Att:** 23,787.

Weekend
Chelsea 1 (Wise 82), **Arsenal 1** (Dixon 88). **Att:** 15,392.
Coventry City 1 (Gynn 44), **West Ham Utd 0. Att:** 15,392.
Crystal Palace 1 (Bright 88), **Sheffield Weds. 1** (Williams 44). **Att:** 21,573.
Luton Town 2 (Stein 9, Pembridge 48), **Aston Villa 0. Att:** 11,178.
Manchester City 2 (Simpson 33, Quinn 57), **Notts Co. 0. Att:** 23,426.
Norwich City 1 (Fleck 20), **Wimbledon 1** (Elkins 52). **Att:** 11,061.
Nottingham Forest 1 (Gemmill 78), **QPR 1** (Allen 74). Att:22,228.
Southampton 1 (Shearer 84), **Oldham Athletic 0. Att:** 15,857.
Tottenham 3 (Allen 18, Minton 43, Stewart 44), **Everton 3** (Beardsley 65, 79, Unsworth 82). **Att:** 34,630.
Liverpool 2 (Rush 13, Walters 86), **Manchester Utd 0. Att:** 38,669.
Sheffield Utd 2 (Cork 29, Chapman o.g. 68), **Leeds Utd 3** (R. Wallace 45, Newsome 64, Gayle o.g. 77). **Att:** 32,000.

FRANCE Midweek

Cup — quarter-finals
Ajaccio 0, Monaco 3
Bastia 0, Nancy 0
Bastia win on pens
Cannes 1, Red Star 0
Caen 1, Marseille 3

Weekend
Sochaux 2 (Silvestre 9, Vujovic 80), **Caen 0. Att:** 6,000.
Nimes 1 (Vercruysse 42), **Metz 0. Att:** 10,660.
Toulouse 3 (Pavon 14, Ferrer 41, 61), **Toulon 0. Att:** 11,916.
St Etienne 0, Rennes 1 (Turban 73). **Att:** 10,913.
Lens 1 (Arsene 88), **Paris SG 0. Att:** 28,000.
Auxerre 1 (Baticle 24), **Lille 0. Att:** 10,000.
Nantes 3 (Vulic 39, Youm 27, 89), **Lyon 0. Att:** 7,000.
Marseille 2 (Papin 70, Deschamps 76), **Cannes 0. Att:** 48,000.
Le Havre 3 (Garande 1, Moreau 64, Kana-Biyik 85), **Monaco 0. Att:** 13,372.
Nancy 3 (Sechet 35, 73, Zitelli 46), **Montpellier 1** (Divert 86). **Att:** 10,000.

GERMANY Weekend
Hansa Rostock 0, VfL Bochum 2 (Boger o.g. 6, o.g. 72). **Att:** 10,000.
Wattenscheid 1 (Neuhaus 57), **Nurnberg 1** (Eckstein 33). **Att:** 8,000.
Fortuna D. 1 (Buskens 3), **Dynamo Dresden 3** (Gutschow 34, Rosler 72, Zander pen 83). **Att:** 5,000.
VfB Stuttgart 4 (Helmer o.g. 32, F. Walter 45, 70, Gaudino 90), **Borussia Dortmund 2** (Poulsen 14, Helmer 84). **Att:** 67,000.
Borussia Mg. 1 (Criens pen 59), **Bayern Munich 1** (Laurdrup 56). **Att:** 34,500.
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Jorginho 88), **Eintracht Frankfurt 3** (A. Moller 24, Weber 69, Falkenmayer 78). **Att:** 25,000.
MSV Duisburg 0, Hamburg SV 1 (Rohde 80). **Att:** 24,000.
Karlsruher SC 2 (Funkel o.g. 35, Metz 90), **Kaiserslautern 1** (Scherr 74). **Att:** 23,000.
Werder Bremen 1 (Kohn 73), **Koln 3** (H. Fuchs 28, Sturm 55, Ordenewitz 64). **Att:** 18,000.
Schalke 1 (Sendscheid 86), **Stuttg. Kickers 2** (Moutas 15, 40). **Att:** 25,000.

HOLLAND Weekend

Fortuna Sittard 4 (Boogers 9, Sneekes 25, Barmentloo 32, Driessen 38), **Volendam 1** (Berghuis 20). **Att:** 4,500.
De Graafschap 1 (Ten Hag 66), **MVV 1** (Lanckohr 73). **Att:** 6,170.
Willem II 3 (Vincent 25, Stewart 28, 63), **RKC 1** (Brands 90). **Att:** 3,500.
Groningen 0, PSV 3 (Kieft 22, Ellerman 40, Valckx 59). **Att:** 17,405.
Utrecht 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 10,000.
Twente 1 (Kool 40), **Vitesse 2** (Eijer 29, Cocu 32). **Att:** 5,200.
Sparta 1 (Valke 90), **SVV/Dordrecht 1** (Gorre 41). **Att:** 3,000.
Ajax 3 (Pettersson pen 6, Groenendijk 53, Van Loen 73), **VVV 1** (Orie pen 65). **Att:** 13,500.
Den Haag 5 (Houtman 38, Otto 74, Post 78, Grunholz 89, Van Eijkeren pen 90), **Roda JC 3** (Hofman 24, Jansen 71, Ogechukwu 74). **Att:** 7,000.

1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1
Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Malta, Estonia.

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta
19.12.92 Malta v Italy
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy
24.03.93 Italy v Malta
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia

GROUP 2
England, Holland, Poland, Norway, Turkey, San Marino.

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino
23.09.92 Norway v Holland
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway
14.10.92 England v Norway
14.10.92 Holland v Poland
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino
18.11.92 England v Turkey
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland
17.02.93 England v San Marino
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino
31.03.93 Turkey v England
28.04.93 England v Holland
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland
29.05.93 Poland v England
02.06.93 Norway v England
09.06.93 Holland v Norway
08.09.93 England v Poland
22.09.93 Norway v Poland
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland
13.10.93 Holland v England
13.10.93 Poland v Norway
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway
16.11.93 San Marino v England
17.11.93 Poland v Holland

GROUP 3
Spain, Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia.

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark
09.09.92 Iceland v Latvia
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v Northern Ireland
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia
22.09.93 Albania v Spain
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain
17.11.93 Northern Ireland v Rep. of Ireland
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark

GROUP 4
Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Wales, Cyprus, Faroe Islands.

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium
17.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia
18.11.92 Wales v Belgium
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania
02.01.93 Cyprus v Belgium
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia
31.03.93 Belgium v Wales
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus
17.11.93 Wales v Romania
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia

GROUP 5
CIS, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg.

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland
02.09.92 Iceland v Yugoslavia
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary
23.09.92 Yugoslavia v CIS
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece
14.10.92 CIS v Iceland
14.10.92 Hungary v Yugoslavia
28.10.92 CIS v Luxembourg
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary
15.11.92 Luxembourg v Yugoslavia
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece
31.03.93 Yugoslavia v Luxembourg
14.04.93 Luxembourg v CIS
28.04.93 CIS v Hungary
28.04.93 Yugoslavia v Greece
20.05.93 CIS v Greece
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland
02.06.93 Iceland v CIS
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary
22.08.93 Yugoslavia v Iceland
08.09.93 Hungary v CIS
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg
06.10.93 CIS v Yugoslavia
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece
27.10.93 Greece v Yugoslavia
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg
17.11.93 Greece v CIS
17.11.93 Yugoslavia v Hungary

GROUP 6
France, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel.

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria
14.10.92 France v Austria
28.10.92 Austria v Israel
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden
14.11.92 France v Finland
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria
17.02.93 Israel v France
27.03.93 Austria v France
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria
28.04.93 France v Sweden
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel
13.05.93 Finland v Austria
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel
16.06.93 Finland v Israel
22.08.93 Sweden v France
25.08.93 Austria v Finland
08.09.93 Finland v France
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden
13.10.93 France v Israel
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland
27.20.93 Israel v Austria
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden
10.11.93 Israel v Finland
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members, Sierra Leone withdrew)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A
Algeria, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi.

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi
09.10.92 Ghana v Uganda
23.10.92 Burundi v Ghana
23.10.92 Uganda v Algeria
18.12.92 Burundi v Uganda
18.12.92 Ghana v Algeria

GROUP B
Cameroon, Zaire, Liberia, Swaziland.

09.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland
09.10.92 Zaire v Liberia
23.10.92 Liberia v Cameroon
23.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire
18.12.92 Swaziland v Liberia
18.12.92 Zaire v Cameroon

GROUP C
Egypt, Zimbabwe, Togo, Angola.

09.10.92 Egypt v Angola
09.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo
23.10.92 Angola v Zimbabwe
23.10.92 Togo v Egypt
18.12.92 Angola v Togo
18.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt

GROUP D
Nigeria, Congo, Libya, Sao Tome & Principe.

09.10.92 Congo v Libya
09.10.92 Nigeria v Sao Tome & Principe
23.10.92 Libya v Nigeria
23.10.92 Sao Tome & Principe v Congo
18.12.92 Congo v Nigeria
18.12.92 Sao Tome & Principe v Libya

GROUP E
Ivory Coast, Sudan, Niger, Botswana.

09.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana
09.10.92 Sudan v Niger
23.10.92 Botswana v Sudan
23.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast
18.12.92 Botswana v Niger
18.12.92 Sudan v Ivory Coast

GROUP F
Morocco, Tunisia, Malawi, Ethiopia.

09.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia
09.10.92 Tunisia v Malawi
23.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia
23.10.92 Malawi v Morocco
18.12.92 Ethiopia v Malawi
18.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco

GROUP G
Senegal, Gabon, Mozambique, Mauritania.

09.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique
09.10.92 Senegal v Mauritania
23.10.92 Mauritania v Gabon
23.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal
18.12.92 Gabon v Senegal
18.12.92 Mauritania v Mozambique

GROUP H
Zambia, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Tanzania.

09.10.92 Madagascar v Burkina Faso
09.10.92 Zambia v Tanzania
23.10.92 Burkina Faso v Zambia
23.10.92 Tanzania v Madagascar
18.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia
18.12.92 Tanzania v Burkina Faso

GROUP I
Kenya, Guinea, Mali, Gambia.

09.10.92 Guinea v Mali
09.10.92 Kenya v Gambia
23.10.92 Gambia v Guinea
23.10.92 Mali v Kenya
18.12.92 Gambia v Mali
18.12.92 Guinea v Kenya

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Winners of Group A play (home & away) against winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
24.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda
23.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rica
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica
St Vincent v Grenadines.

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Surinam v Guyana
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados
Antigua qualify for First Round

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama

CARIBBEAN REGION: Guyana or Surinam v St Vincent or Grenadines, Bermuda or Haiti v Antigua, Barbados or Trinidad & Tobago v Puerto Rico or Jamaica.

Second Round
GROUP A: Mexico and 3 First Round qualifiers.
GROUP B: Canada and 3 first Round qualifiers.

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/South America play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A
Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B
Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

08.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1
11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands

GROUP 2
New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu.

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) one mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A
China, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan.

GROUP B
Iran, Syria, Oman, Taiwan, Myanmar (formerly Burma).

GROUP C
North Korea, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia.

GROUP D
South Korea, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Lebanon, India.

GROUP E
Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Macao.

GROUP F
United Arab Emirates, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.

1992 LIBERTADORES CUP

FIRST ROUND

GROUP 1
(Chile — Argentina)

18.02.92	Colo Colo (Chi) v Coquimbo (Chi)	1-0
21.02.92	Colo Colo v Univ. Catolica (Chi)	1-1
26.02.92	Coquimbo v Univ. Catolica	3-2
26.02.92	Newell's (Arg) v San Lorenzo (Arg)	0-6
03.03.92	Newell's v Coquimbo	3-0
03.03.92	San Lorenzo v Colo Colo	1-0
06.03.92	Newell's v Colo Colo	3-1
06.03.92	San Lorenzo v Coquimbo	3-0
09.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Newell's	1-1
13.03.92	Univ. Catolica v San Lorenzo	4-0
17.03.92	Coquimbo v Colo Colo	1-1
20.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Colo Colo	0-0
25.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Coquimbo	5-1
25.03.92	San Lorenzo v Newell's	0-1
31.03.92	Coquimbo v Newell's	1-2
31.03.92	Colo Colo v San Lorenzo	1-0
03.04.92	Coquimbo v San Lorenzo	0-1
03.04.92	Colo Colo v Newell's	1-1
07.04.92	San Lorenzo v Univ. Catolica	2-2
10.04.92	Newell's v Univ. Catolica	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Newell's	8	4	3	1	11	10	11
Univ. Catolica	8	2	5	1	15	8	9
San Lorenzo	8	4	1	3	13	8	9
Colo Colo	8	2	4	2	6	7	8
Coquimbo	8	1	1	6	6	18	3

GROUP 2
(Bolivia — Brazil)

06.03.92	Criciuma (Bra) v Sao Paulo (Bra)	3-0
06.03.92	Bolivar (Bol) v San Jose (Bol)	2-1
17.03.92	Sao Paulo v San Jose	3-0
20.03.92	Bolivar v Sao Paulo	1-1
24.02.92	San Jose v Criciuma	1-2
27.03.92	Bolivar v Criciuma	1-1
02.04.92	Sao Paulo v Criciuma	4-0
02.04.92	San Jose v Bolivar	2-4
07.04.92	Sao Paulo v San Jose	1-1
10.04.92	Criciuma v San Jose	5-0
14.04.92	Sao Paulo v Bolivar	2-0
18.04.92	Criciuma v Bolivar	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Criciuma	6	4	1	1	13	7	9
Sao Paolo	6	3	2	1	11	5	8
Bolivar	6	2	2	2	9	9	6
San Jose	6	0	1	5	5	12	1

GROUP 3
(Ecuador — Venezuela)

23.02.92	Maritimo (Ven) v ULA (Ven)	1-2
23.02.92	Barcelona (Ecu) v Valdez (Ecu)	0-0
11.03.92	ULA v Valdez	0-2
15.03.92	Maritimo v Valdez	1-0
18.03.92	Maritimo v Barcelona	1-1
22.03.92	ULA v Barcelona	0-1
29.03.92	Valdez v Barcelona	0-1
29.03.92	ULA v Maritimo	0-0
01.04.92	Valdez v Maritimo	2-1
04.04.92	Barcelona v Maritimo	3-1
07.04.92	Valdez v ULA	1-1
10.04.92	Barcelona v ULA	5-1
Play-off	Maritimo v ULA	2-2

(Played: 22.04.92, Maritimo qualify for 2nd rnd).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Barcelona	6	4	2	0	11	3	10
Valdez	6	2	2	2	5	4	6
Maritimo	6	1	2	3	5	8	4
ULA	6	1	2	3	4	10	4

GROUP 4
(Colombia — Peru)

26.02.92	America (Col) v At. Nacional (Col)	2-0
26.02.92	Sp. Boys (Peru) v Sp. Cristal (Peru)	1-1
10.03.92	America v Sport Boys	2-0
13.03.92	At. Nacional v Sport Boys	2-2
17.03.92	America v Sp. Cristal	1-0
20.03.92	At. Nacional v Sp. Cristal	1-0
25.03.92	At. Nacional v America	3-0
25.03.92	Sp. Cristal v Sport Boys	2-0
31.03.92	Sport Boys v America	1-2
03.04.92	Sp. Cristal v America	3-1
07.04.92	Sport Boys v At. Nacional	0-6
12.04.92	Sp. Cristal v At. Nacional	0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
At. Nacional	6	4	1	1	15	4	9
America	6	4	0	2	8	7	8
Sp. Cristal	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Sport Boys	6	0	2	4	4	15	2

GROUP 5
(Paraguay — Uruguay)

04.03.92	Sol de America (Par) v C. Porteno (Par)	0-2
04.03.92	Defensor (Uru) v Nacional (Uru)	0-1
10.03.92	Defensor v Cerro Porteno	2-3
13.03.92	Nacional v Cerro Porteno	0-0
17.03.92	Nacional v Sol de America	2-2
20.03.92	Defensor v Sol de America	1-2
25.03.92	Cerro Porteno v Sol de America	2-0
31.03.92	Sol de America v Nacional	1-3
01.04.92	Cerro Porteno v Defensor	1-1
08.04.92	Cerro Porteno v Nacional	1-1
09.04.92	Sol de America v Defensor	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Cerro Porteno	6	3	3	0	9	4	9
Nacional	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Defensor	6	1	2	3	7	9	4
Sol de America	6	1	2	3	5	10	4

SECOND ROUND

First Leg

28.04.92	Univ. Catolica v America	0-0
28.04.92	Nacional v Sao Paulo	0-1
29.04.92	Defensor v Newell's	1-1
29.04.92	Maritimo v At. Nacional	0-0
29.04.92	Bolivar v Cerro Porteno	2-0
29.04.92	San Lorenzo v Valdez	2-0
30.04.92	Sp. Cristal v Criciuma	1-2
30.04.92	Colo Colo v Barcelona	1-0

Second Leg

05.05.92	America v Univ. Catolica	1-0
	America won 1-0 on agg	
05.05.92	Valdez v San Lorenzo	2-0
	San Lorenzo won 6-5 on pens. Agg: 2-2	
06.05.92	Sao Paulo v Nacional	2-0
	Sao Paulo won 3-0 on agg	
06.05.92	Newell's v Defensor	1-0
	Newell's won 2-1 on agg	
06.05.92	At. Nacional v Maritimo	3-0
	At. Nacional won 3-0 on agg	
06.05.92	Cerro Porteno v Bolivar	3-0
	Cerro Porteno won 3-2 on agg	
06.05.92	Barcelona v Colo Colo	2-0
	Barcelona won 2-1 on agg	
07.05.92	Criciuma v Sp. Cristal	3-2
	Criciuma won 5-3 on agg	

QUARTER-FINALS

First Leg

13.05.92	Newell's v San Lorenzo	4-0
13.05.92	At. Nacional v America	0-1
13.05.92	Barcelona v Cerro Porteno	1-1
13.05.92	Sao Paulo v Criciuma	1-0

Second Leg

20.05.92	San Lorenzo v Newell's	
20.05.92	Criciuma v Sao Paulo	
20.05.92	America v At. Nacional	
20.05.92	Cerro Porteno v Barcelona	

INTERNATIONAL TABLES

ENGLAND

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
LEEDS UTD	42	22	16	4	74	37	82
Man Utd	42	21	15	6	63	33	78
Sheffield Wed.	42	21	12	9	62	49	75
Arsenal	42	19	15	8	81	46	72
Man City	42	20	10	12	61	48	70
Liverpool	42	16	16	10	47	40	64
Aston Villa	42	17	9	16	48	44	60
Nottm. Forest	42	16	11	15	60	58	59
Sheffield Utd	42	16	9	17	65	63	57
Crystal Palace	42	14	15	13	53	61	57
QPR	42	12	18	12	48	47	54
Everton	42	13	14	15	52	51	53
Wimbledon	42	13	14	15	53	53	53
Chelsea	42	13	14	15	50	60	53
Tottenham	42	15	7	20	58	63	52
Southampton	42	14	10	18	39	55	52
Oldham Ath.	42	14	9	19	63	67	51
Norwich City	42	11	12	19	47	63	45
Coventry City	42	11	11	20	35	44	44
Luton Town	42	10	12	20	38	71	42
Notts County	42	10	10	22	40	62	40
West Ham	42	9	11	22	37	59	38

FRANCE

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
MARSEILLE	38	23	12	3	67	21	58
Monaco	38	22	8	8	55	33	52
Paris SG	38	15	17	6	43	27	47
Auxerre	38	16	12	10	55	32	44
Caen	38	17	10	11	46	45	44
Montpellier	38	12	18	8	40	32	42
Le Havre	38	13	16	9	35	32	42
Lens	38	11	17	10	37	30	39
Nantes	38	12	14	12	37	39	38
St Etienne	38	13	11	14	42	37	37
Toulouse	38	11	14	13	33	40	36
Metz	38	12	11	15	42	43	35
Toulon	38	13	6	19	41	56	32
Nimes	38	9	14	15	31	50	32
Lyon	38	10	11	17	25	39	31
Sochaux	38	9	13	16	35	50	31
Rennes	38	6	17	15	25	42	29
Cannes	38	8	12	18	34	48	28
Nancy	38	10	8	20	43	67	28

GERMANY

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
STUTTGART	38	21	10	7	62	32	52
Bor. Dortmund	38	20	12	6	66	47	52
E. Frankfurt	38	18	14	6	76	41	50
Koln	38	13	18	7	58	41	44
Kaiserslautern	38	17	10	11	58	42	44
Leverkusen	38	15	13	10	53	39	43
Nurnburg	38	18	7	13	54	51	43
Karlsruher	38	16	9	13	48	50	41
Werder Bremen	38	11	16	11	44	45	38
Bayern Munich	38	13	10	15	59	61	36
Schalke	38	11	12	15	45	45	34
Hamburg	38	9	16	13	32	43	34
Borussia Mg.	38	10	14	14	37	49	34
Dynamo Dresden	38	12	10	16	34	50	34
VfL Bochum	38	10	13	15	38	55	33
Wattenscheid	38	9	14	15	50	60	32
Stuttgart Kickers	38	10	11	17	53	64	31
Hansa Rostock	38	10	11	17	43	55	31
MSV Duisburg	38	7	16	15	43	55	30
F. Dusseldorf	38	6	12	20	41	69	24

TURKEY

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BESIKTAS	30	23	7	0	58	20	76
Fenerbahce	30	23	2	5	81	35	71
Galatasaray	30	19	3	8	54	35	60
Trabzonspor	30	16	7	7	56	31	55
Aydin	30	12	5	13	36	41	41
Bursaspor	30	10	10	10	44	43	40
Ankaragucu	30	10	10	10	43	43	40
Sariyer	30	11	5	14	34	44	38
Altay	30	10	6	14	35	45	36
Genclerbirligi	30	7	13	10	40	46	34
Bakirkoy	30	8	9	13	42	46	33
Konyaspor	30	8	8	14	28	34	32
Gaziantep	30	7	11	12	34	53	32
Boluspor	30	8	7	15	29	38	31
Adanaspor	30	5	9	16	27	61	24
Samsunspor	30	4	6	20	36	60	18

SCOTLAND

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
RANGERS	44	33	6	5	101	31	72
Hearts	44	27	9	8	60	37	63
Celtic	44	26	10	8	88	42	62
Dundee Utd	44	19	13	12	66	50	51
Hibernian	44	16	17	11	53	45	49
Aberdeen	44	17	14	13	55	42	48
Airdrie	44	13	10	21	50	70	36
St Johnstone	44	13	10	21	52	73	36
Falkirk	44	12	11	21	54	73	35
Motherwell	44	10	14	20	43	61	34
St Mirren	44	6	12	26	33	73	24
Dunfermline	44	4	10	30	22	80	18

NORTHERN IRELAND

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GLENTORAN	30	24	5	1	78	26	77
Portadown	30	21	2	7	59	19	65
Linfield	30	17	9	4	58	23	60
Larne	30	16	7	7	54	31	55
Glenavon	30	16	4	10	54	36	52
Crusaders	30	14	5	11	55	37	47
Ards	30	10	11	9	50	46	41
Bangor*	30	11	6	13	45	52	36
Omagh	30	10	6	14	51	58	36
Ballymena Utd	30	8	11	11	37	50	35
Ballyclare	30	8	8	14	37	64	32
Cliftonville	30	7	10	13	27	34	31
Coleraine	30	7	8	15	35	57	29
Newry	30	8	5	17	28	57	29
Distillery	30	5	7	18	31	55	22
Carrick Rangers	30	2	8	20	24	78	14

3 points deducted by League.

HOLLAND

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
PSV EINDHOVEN	34	25	8	1	82	24	58
Ajax	34	25	5	4	83	24	55
Feyenoord	34	20	9	5	54	19	49
Vitesse Arnhem	34	15	10	9	47	33	40
Groningen	34	14	11	9	44	37	39
Twente	34	13	9	12	53	49	35
MVV	34	11	13	10	42	44	35
Sparta	34	11	13	10	50	53	35
Roda JC	34	12	11	11	41	45	35
RKC Waalwijk	34	10	14	10	50	49	34
Utrecht	34	9	15	10	35	37	33
Willem	34	11	9	14	44	45	31
Volendam	34	10	8	16	32	48	28
Fortuna Sittard	34	7	11	16	36	50	25
SVV/Dordrecht	34	9	7	18	38	64	25
Den Haag	34	6	10	18	35	63	22
De Graafschap	34	6	9	19	29	59	21
VVV	34	3	6	25	32	84	12

PORTUGAL

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
FC PORTO	34	24	8	2	58	11	56
Benfica	34	17	12	5	62	23	46
Sporting	34	18	8	8	56	26	44
Boavista	34	16	12	6	45	27	44
Vit. Guimaraes	34	14	13	7	46	35	41
Maritimo	34	12	11	11	40	38	35
Farense	34	12	11	11	35	33	35
Beira-Mar	34	11	10	13	32	41	32
Chaves	34	10	10	14	36	45	30
Estoril	34	10	10	14	34	54	30
Sp. Braga	34	12	5	17	41	49	29
Pacos Ferreira	34	10	9	15	31	45	29
Gil Vicente	34	11	7	16	25	43	29
Salgueiros	34	7	14	13	27	35	28
Famalicao	34	9	10	15	27	40	28
Toriense	34	8	11	15	37	43	27
Penafiel	34	7	11	16	30	47	25
Uniao	34	9	6	19	30	57	24

LITHUANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panersy	13	8	4	1	22	5	20
Ekranas	13	8	4	1	23	9	20
Zalgiris	13	7	3	3	19	9	17
Banga-Granitas	13	6	5	2	18	10	17
Sirijus	13	5	6	2	17	7	16
Lietuvos Makabi	13	4	7	2	16	12	15
Sakalas	13	4	5	4	14	14	13
Jovaras	13	5	3	5	17	16	13
Granitas	13	4	5	4	16	15	13
Inkaras	13	4	3	6	14	17	11
Snaige	13	4	3	6	10	18	11
Elektronas	13	2	3	8	6	22	7
Vienybe	13	1	3	9	8	27	5
Tauras	13	2	0	11	10	29	4

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
AEK Athens	31	21	7	3	66	23	49
Olympiakos	31	19	9	3	70	27	47
Panathinaikos	31	19	5	7	57	19	43
PAOK	31	13	12	6	40	35	38
Apollon	31	13	7	11	33	29	33
OFI Crete	31	10	13	8	28	25	33
Aris Salonika	31	12	7	12	26	34	31
Korinthos	31	11	7	13	35	39	29
Heraklis	31	8	11	12	33	36	27
Athinaikos	31	9	9	13	31	38	27
Larissa	31	9	9	13	32	41	27
Panionios	31	8	11	12	27	41	27
Doxa Drama	31	8	10	13	37	36	26
Pierikos	31	9	8	14	36	51	26
Xanthi	31	11	3	17	30	44	25
Panachaiki	31	10	5	16	36	51	25
Serres	31	8	7	16	25	55	23
Ethnikos	31	6	10	15	24	42	22

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
B1903	11	7	2	2	17	9	27
Lyngby	11	6	2	3	17	7	26
Frem	11	5	4	2	15	8	23
Aarhus	11	4	3	4	15	10	21
Aalborg	11	3	5	3	12	8	21
Silkeborg	11	4	3	4	9	15	19
Brondby	11	2	2	7	10	19	18
Naestved	11	2	1	8	10	29	13

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ferencvaros	24	12	10	2	45	18	34
Vac	24	13	7	4	44	25	33
Kispest	24	14	4	6	42	24	32
MTK-VM	24	13	5	6	38	22	31
Siofok	24	12	5	7	34	25	29
Videoton	24	8	11	5	32	24	27
Ujpesti TE	24	8	9	7	35	31	25
Pecs	24	9	7	8	20	21	25
Vasas	24	7	10	7	25	21	24
BVSC	24	7	8	9	23	23	22
Raba ETO	24	7	6	11	27	36	20
Veszprem	24	6	8	10	17	33	20
Haladas	24	6	7	11	21	29	19
Tatabanya	24	5	8	11	21	38	18
Diosgyor	24	5	7	12	19	36	17
Zalaegerszeg	24	1	6	17	13	50	8

BELGIUM

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CLUB BRUGGE	34	21	11	2	68	29	53
Anderlecht	34	21	7	6	65	26	49
Standard	34	16	14	4	59	28	46
Mechelen	34	15	13	6	47	23	43
Antwerp	34	18	5	11	47	39	41
Gent	34	16	9	9	54	44	41
Lierse	34	14	9	11	52	50	37
Ekeren	34	13	11	10	55	45	37
Cercle	34	10	14	10	57	56	34
Waregem	34	11	8	15	47	55	30
RWD Molenbeek	34	11	7	16	37	48	29
Beveren	34	9	11	14	42	52	29
Charleroi	34	9	9	16	32	43	27
Lokeren	34	8	11	15	38	51	27
Liege	34	7	13	14	33	47	27
Genk	34	8	10	16	32	44	26
Kortrijk	34	5	10	19	31	72	20
Aalst	34	4	8	22	18	62	16

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Real Madrid	35	22	7	6	73	27	51
Barcelona	35	20	9	6	75	37	49
Atletico Madrid	35	22	4	9	60	32	48
Valencia	35	19	6	10	58	38	44
Real Sociedad	35	15	11	9	38	35	41
Albacete	35	15	8	12	42	42	38
Zaragoza	35	15	7	13	37	39	37
Burgos	35	12	12	11	38	35	36
Sporting Gijon	35	15	6	14	34	38	36
Logrones	35	13	8	14	34	48	34
Sevilla	35	13	7	15	47	40	33
Oviedo	35	12	8	15	36	42	32
Osasuna	35	10	11	14	29	38	31
Athletic Bilbao	35	12	7	16	36	55	31
Tenerife	35	10	9	16	38	46	29
La Coruna	35	8	13	14	34	44	29
Espanol	35	11	7	17	39	53	29
Valladolid	35	6	13	16	30	45	25
Cadiz	35	6	12	17	30	54	24
Mallorca	35	8	7	20	24	44	23

ITALY

FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
MILAN	34	22	12	0	74	21	56
Juventus	34	18	12	4	45	22	48
Torino	34	14	15	5	42	20	43
Napoli	34	15	12	7	56	40	42
AS Roma	34	13	14	7	37	31	40
Sampdoria	34	11	16	7	38	31	38
Parma	34	11	16	7	32	28	38
Inter	34	10	17	7	28	28	37
Foggia	34	12	11	11	58	58	35
Lazio	34	11	12	11	43	40	34
Atalanta	34	10	14	10	31	33	34
Fiorentina	34	10	12	12	44	41	32
Cagliari	34	7	15	12	30	34	29
Genoa	34	9	11	14	35	47	29
Bari	34	6	10	18	26	47	22
Verona	34	7	7	20	24	57	21
Cremonese	34	5	10	19	27	49	20
Ascoli	34	4	6	24	25	68	14

ESTONIA

(WEST)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parnu JK	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
Norma	2	2	0	0	12	0	4
VMV	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Vigri	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Dunamo	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Viljandi	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Merkuur	3	0	1	2	1	11	1

(EAST)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Johvi	3	2	1	0	8	4	5
Flora	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Kalev Tartu	2	1	1	0	6	3	3
Narvatrans	3	0	2	1	7	9	2
Sillamae	3	1	0	2	2	6	2
Maardu	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Keemik	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Trelleborg	10	5	3	2	14	12	18
IFK Gothenburg	9	5	2	2	19	9	17
IFK Norrkoping	10	4	2	4	18	15	14
AIK Stockholm	9	3	4	2	13	11	13
Osters	9	3	4	2	15	14	13
Malmo	10	3	3	4	13	11	12
Djurgarden	9	2	4	3	17	20	10
Orebro	10	2	4	4	9	15	10
Vastra	9	2	4	3	6	11	10
GAIS	9	2	2	5	5	11	8

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Red Star	32	22	5	5	74	24	48
Partizan	32	20	10	2	59	19	44
Vojvodina	32	18	5	9	42	31	40
Belgrade	31	16	9	6	54	36	35
Vardar	31	14	5	12	46	34	32
Proleter	31	14	4	13	35	43	31
Zemun	33	13	7	13	43	41	28
Sarajevo	26	12	6	8	33	27	27
Radnicki	32	12	5	15	37	44	26
Rad	31	12	3	16	43	42	25
Borac	31	10	9	12	20	31	25
Velez	26	10	5	11	34	35	23
Sutjeska	31	10	6	15	36	44	21
Buducnost	31	8	8	15	24	33	19
Sloboda	26	8	3	15	23	43	18
Pelister	31	8	3	20	25	55	18
Zeljenicar	25	6	4	15	22	42	16
Spartak	32	6	9	17	22	49	15

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CSKA	28	20	5	3	70	22	45
Levski	28	18	6	4

LEEDS MAKE THE MOST OF A MEAGRE CHANCE

Home news

BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

LEEDS UNITED charged past a fading Manchester United to claim their first League Championship for 18 years.

For much of the season attention had centred on Manchester's campaign to end a 25-year wait for the title. For much of the season, too, it seemed the celebrations would be held at Old Trafford.

Both teams stumbled in the second half of the race, so much so that Sheffield Wednesday threatened to come up on the rails.

Leeds, however, had the extra strength, and perhaps the extra bit of luck, to come through four points ahead of Manchester, seven in front of Wednesday.

Poised

All bets were off when Manchester beat Southampton 1-0, thanks to a spectacular volley by Andrei Kanchelskis. They then needed 11 points from their remaining five matches and after winning the Rumbelows League Cup, were poised for a double.

But suddenly it all went wrong for Alex Ferguson and his side. After scrambling a point at Luton, they lost three matches in a fateful week.

The third defeat, at Liverpool, ended their chance, for earlier that day Leeds had won a bizarre encounter, helped by an injury to Sheffield United's goalkeeper and an extraordinary own goal.

Ian Rush played only 27 minutes of his 24th match against Manchester United before a recurring injury problem forced him out of the action, yet it was long enough for him to score his first goal against them. Substitute Walters confirmed the agonising reality with a late second goal.

Fortune spurned Alex Ferguson's United at the end, but they surrendered the initiative when Leeds were all but vanquished.

Ferguson constantly changed his line-up, leaving out Neil Webb towards the end, and too often fielded teams devoid of pattern, composure or guidance.

He could not camouflage his inevitable anxiety and that may well have been transmitted to his players.

By contrast, Howard Wilkinson of Leeds maintained a calm, dignified countenance and, in the closing stages, made a conscious effort to keep a settled side.

Wilkinson has proved himself an outstanding orchestrator, having pulled together an ailing club and led them from the depths of the Second Division to the pinnacle of the English game, and a place in Europe, in less than four years.

Arsenal finished strongly to finish fourth, with Manchester City fifth and Liverpool sixth, Luton, Notts County and West Ham went down, while Ipswich Town and Middlesbrough were automatically promoted.

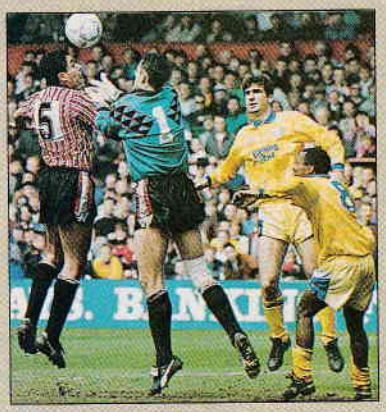
Liverpool eventually strolled to a 2-0 FA Cup Final victory, although a repeat of Second Division Sunderland's 1973 triumph over Leeds seemed a possibility in the first half.

Early in the second half, however, Michael Thomas applied a splendid finish to a half chance created by Steve McManaman, and the Sunderland challenge collapsed.

Manager Graeme Souness, just out of hospital after a triple by-pass heart operation, was restrained on the bench by the club doctor. His assistant, Ronnie Moran, had led out the team, but Souness would not be denied his first FA Cup final as player or manager.

Success and a place in Europe were assured by Ian Rush, who calmly placed his fifth FA Cup final goal — a Wembley record.

Gary Lineker's goals lifted Tottenham clear of relegation and earned him a second Footballer of the Year award in his last season before moving to Japan.



Freak goal (right) . . . Brian Gayle's header loops over his own 'keeper to give Leeds a crucial 3-2 victory over Sheffield United.

Finally ours (far right) . . . skipper Gordon Strachan enjoys a quiet moment with the Championship trophy.

Final flourish (below) . . . Michael Thomas (grounded) watches his shot fly past Sunderland's Tony Norman to put Liverpool ahead against Sunderland.

Fraser upsets old pals

BY ROY **KITSON**

A 2-1 victory over Linfield gave Glenavon their first Irish Cup in 31 years — that 1961 victory also was over Linfield — and made up for the disappointment of losing last year's final to Portadown.

Glenavon manager Alan Fraser, who was Linfield coach until October last year, put one over his former boss, Eric Bowyer. Perhaps the key to Fraser's success was his ability to tighten up a defence who had leaked goals previously, and the effectiveness of his work was demonstrated in the last quarter of an exciting game when Linfield pressed non-stop. The match was marred by a pitch invasion of around 100 Linfield supporters to celebrate the opening goal, by 32-year-old Martin McGaughey.

Despite the loss of Stephen McKee and Glenn Ferguson — both out with long-term injuries — Glenavon had enough fire-power to take the game through a goal by man of the match Geoff Ferris and a deflected free-kick by 18-year-old Gerard McMahon, who is due to join Tottenham on July 1.

Linfield miss European football for the third successive season — a fact that their fans do not find at all palatable. The Belfast Blues were pushed into third place by last year's double winners, Portadown, in the League Championship.

Glentoran are champions, with 77 points and only one defeat in 30 games. There is less joy at struggling Newry, where manager Matt Bradley resigned after seven years of trying to build a team with virtually no resources. Top scorer Ollie Ralph took over as caretaker, and might be in charge next season. Carrick and Distillery have to play for re-election.

There was gloom on the international front following failure to get off to a winning start in the World Cup campaign, against Lithuania at Windsor Park.

Northern Ireland were two goals up in 16 minutes, only to let their grip slip, and a 2-2 draw left 5,000 supporters stunned.

Smith's luck turns at last

BY ALAN FAIRLEY

THE aristocrats, Rangers, held on for a surprisingly narrow 2-1 victory over the journeymen, Airdrie, to win the Scottish Cup for the first time in 11 years.

"I was pretty nervous when Airdrie scored their late goal," admitted manager Walter Smith in the Hampden aftermath.

He had been disappointed in four finals during his various playing and coaching roles with Dundee United and Rangers, and the final 10 minutes of the latest game provided an unwelcome attack of deja vu.

"I had a terrible feeling that it was going to go wrong again," he said. "But we deserved to win. People were expecting 4-0 or 5-0, but that's not realistic in a final nowadays."

Victory gave Rangers the League and Cup double at the end of Smith's first full season in charge, confirming that there is, indeed, life after Souness.

Airdrie qualify for the Cup-winners' Cup, their first taste of continental football, and look forward to taking their distinctive brand of combative play to previously uncharted territories.

While Rangers and Airdrie have justifiable cause for celebration, a mood of despondency hovers over the east end of Glasgow, where Celtic have had a particularly poor season.

They again failed to win a major trophy and missed a UEFA Cup place when Hearts held on for second spot in the Premier League.

Despite the euphoria which surrounded last year's appointment of Liam Brady as manager, he has been singularly unsuccessful, and now faces the possibility of losing Paul McStay the one player of genuine international quality on his staff.

McStay, who has remained loyal to Celtic through a variety of peaks and troughs since joining them as a boy in 1982, is likely to move at last. Liverpool and Manchester United have shown interest, with a variety of European clubs.

Dundee and Partick, who have won promotion from the First Division, are well-supported, ambitious clubs looking to follow the examples set in recent years by teams such as St. Johnstone and Airdrie, both of whom have made the transition to the Premier League with a certain degree of panache.

Final joy . . . Ally McCoist, Davie Dodds and Walter Smith with the Scottish Cup.

CHAMPIONS LOSE 66 POINTS

WELSHPOOL have had 66 points deducted and lost a title for playing an ineligible man throughout the season.

The MANWEB Cymru Alliance championship is now likely to go to Caersws, who need six points from their last five games.

The player in question, Billy Morris, had been suspended for seven years for "a technical assault" on a referee, but had joined Welshpool after playing in Belgium. The club have lost all points from games in which Morris played. They now have one point, from a draw when he did not take part.

Welshpool — who had been contenders for a place in the new League of Wales, only to fail because of deficiencies at their ground — are to appeal, saying they knew nothing of the ban.

Abergavenny Thursdays took the Abacus League title, as expected, and probably will play Caersws for the Challenge Trophy, won last year by Fflint Town United. All this is subject to Welshpool's appeal.

The Allbright Bitter Welsh Cup was won by Cardiff City, 1-0 against Hednesford Town, likely to be the last English-based club to play in the competition.

Rhyl, after all, have decided to apply for League of Wales membership, hoping that one of the 20 clubs invited to join will withdraw.

Of the original irate eight, Colwyn Bay, Caernarfon Town, Newport AFC and Barry Town are now the only ones going into exile.

A 47-year-old former Football League referee, John Deakin, has been appointed secretary of the new League of Wales, and will be based in Cardiff.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

TREVOR BROOKING

AS the spotlight switches to the European Championship in Sweden, many club managers will be reflecting on the season just gone, and wondering where perhaps they need to improve their squad come August and the Premier League.

First, though, congratulations to Howard Wilkinson and Leeds United for eventually keeping their nerve and easing away from Manchester United during the last week of the 1991-92 season. There's no doubt these two deserved to finish ahead of the rest, even if late on it seemed as if Sheffield Wednesday or Arsenal could make a sensational late surge.

Leeds were handicapped by injuries to some key players in the latter weeks, when the depth of their squad was at full stretch.

Lee Chapman's broken arm blunted the attack, although the arrival of French striker Eric Cantona increased the striking options at a vital time.

Gordon Strachan was plagued by sciatica problems which continually restricted his effectiveness, and his position is an obvious one where Wilkinson could enter into the transfer market this summer.

But if they are to capitalise on the opportunity to challenge for the European Cup, then Leeds must buy as shrewdly as they did 12 months ago.

We need quality not quantity

Winning the League Championship was a marvellous achievement considering it was only Leeds' second season back in the top flight.

My best-player nomination goes to the reliable Chris Whyte in defence, whose controlled interceptions and distribution often passes unnoticed.

In complete contrast, Alex Ferguson must be devastated by Manchester United's failure to clinch the title after being clear favourites in April.

So many reasons have been offered up, and certainly a late burst of fixtures didn't help.

But primarily it appeared their failure to score goals in the New Year cost them dear, and it will be interesting to see how Fergie plans to remedy this.

Defensively they always looked sound, but occasionally the reluctance to play two wingers seemed to cost them in attack, and so instead of the European Cup they must content themselves with the UEFA Cup instead.

My best-player nomination goes to Gary Pallister, who now looks one of our most accomplished defenders.

Sheffield Wednesday finished an excellent third in their first season back, and Trevor Francis must be delighted with his return to the managerial chair.

They too enter the UEFA Cup, but need significant transfer activity if they are to build on their progress to date.

Arsenal finished fourth, frustrated by that early season inconsistency, and yet a flurry of goals in April saw them comfortably end as the First Divisions' top goalscorers with 81.

Ian Wright soared to an impressive 29 league goals to capture the coveted adidas/Shoot Golden Shoe Award and the unpredictable talents of Anders Limpar once again provided some memorable flair, but Paul Merson probably took the best-player nomination, as his ability to adapt to various attacking roles gave them a very fluid look.

Finally, in the race for honours, what about Graeme Souness and Liverpool? Injuries early on meant a League title was never realistic, and so after losing to Genoa in Europe, the FA Cup became their priority.

As other top clubs fell away it was left to Portsmouth and Sunderland to offer the main obstacles, but in the end it was a mixture of youth and experience which clinched a place in Europe.

Spurs had a disappointing season this time, and with the retirement of Gary Lineker from English football we lose one of our greatest goalscorers.

Twenty eight league goals in a very average team, says it all about his unique instinct to find the net, and his terrific example both on and off the field will leave a huge gap.

It will be interesting to watch the efforts of England in Sweden, because success will ease the pressure currently focused on the new structure.

Twenty two clubs is still too many, producing too many games for the top players, and diminishing the quality of play as a result.

Let us hope we get quality rather than quantity, otherwise the Premier League will never live up to its' name!

Fond farewell . . . Gary Lineker salutes the fans after his last game for Spurs.

BARCELONA

BACK (L to R): Zubizarreta, Nando, Salinas, Koeman, Laudrup,Stoichkov, Eusebio.
FRONT (L to R): Vilda (physio), Bakero, Ferrer, Guardiola, Juan Carlos, Mur (physio).

SAMPDORIA

BACK (L to R): Katanec, Pagliuca, Lanna, Lombardo, Cerezo, Mancini.
FRONT (L to R): Vierchowod, Mannini, Bonetti, Vialli, Pari.